

Canada – U.S. Technical Working Group

April 29, 2016 – by Teleconference

Time/Location:

1:30-3:00 pm. Washington D.C., USA

- Room 409, USTR, 1724 F St. NW
- IP Address: 65.207.24.228
- Telephone in room: 202.395.6077

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Ottawa, CAN

Cisco IP based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
	OR	(b) (6) @video.gc.ca
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Polycom IP based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
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Purpose:

Ongoing discussions for maintenance of the equivalence agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Connected via teleconference.
2. Review June 10, 2015 meeting minutes
 - a. Compliance issues
 - i. Bob Thomas: CFIA sent information to USDA NOP; CFIA received letter from the USDA NOP; issue is resolved.
 - ii. Natural Health Products: this issue is under the authority of Health Canada; USDA NOP has not yet been contacted by Health Canada.

- iii. **ACTION:** CFIA will share the pertinent Health Canada contact information with USDA NOP.
 - b. CFIA sent to USDA NOP 18 complaints (15 deferred; 2 closed; 1 ongoing)
 - i. Another branch in CFIA (independent of the organic program) performs the sampling/testing for the CFIA organic program, but issues with timeliness of notices and accuracy of sample information have occurred.
 - ii. CFIA organic program staff may re-evaluate this process and focus on using a risk assessment approach; USDA NOP would be interested in reviewing the CFIA proposed directive.
 - c. Re-assessment (refer to item #4)
 - i. CFIA provided updated standards and side-by-side
 - ii. US conducting our own side-by-side analysis and a desk audit
 - d. Role of “observer” clarification (refer to #6 Plurilateral)
 - e. NOP provided update on Mexico
3. Annual Reports
- a. Annual reports shared
 - b. NOP: no questions at this time
 - c. CFIA: follow-up questions
 - i. Sampling and testing: NOP explained policy on mandatory sampling (require 5% minimum per 2013 requirement); NOP conducted training and published instructions for certifiers.
 - ii. Requested clarification on the list of ACAs posted on website
 - 1. “Certifiers active by country” list per the ACA 1) statement of geographical activity (self-report, from audit, or by request), 2) by US state, or 3) alphabetically.
4. Re-assessment of U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (USCOEA)
- a. Proposed timeline:
 - i. The side-by-side analysis and desk audit process will continue into May and the summer 2016:
 - ii. **ACTION:** Within two weeks, CFIA will send a table to NOP that contains the COR standards for NOP to use as part of the desk audit (standards comparison)
 - iii. September : Post-desk audit review and discussion via videoconference
 - iv. Spring 2017: Onsite assessment of each program
 - v. Summer 2017: Finalize terms of the USCOEA
 - b. Organic import certificates status update
 - i. USDA and CFIA agreed last year to change the attestation to an import certificate requirement

- ii. USDA is developing a proposed rule to require import certificates for all product entering the U.S. (not just for equivalence arrangements)
- iii. CFIA still exploring options; trying to use an existing form if possible; the organic import certificate proposal is a priority for this fiscal year.
- iv. Address this item again during equivalency renewal.

5. USCOEA questions

- a. COR CB accreditation in Third Country (“Country A” trade scenario)
- b. Trade route is based on the competent authority to ensure it meets the terms of the specific arrangement

6. USDA updates

- a. Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP):
 - i. NOP published proposed rule on April 15; comment period open to domestic and international comment until June 13; the timeline to review all comments and finalize the rule is not specific.
 - ii. Address this further during equivalency renewal
 - iii. **ACTION**: NOP to share web link about OLPP release with CFIA
- b. Hydroponics
 - i. The NOSB Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force is currently working on this issue.
 - ii. Task force report to the NOSB will be completed in June; NOP expects proposals at the November 2016 NOSB meeting.
 - iii. **ACTION**: NOP share link to report when available on NOP website
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 - i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
 - ii. Address this item during equivalency renewal because it is not currently part of the arrangement.
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- d. Pet Food
 - i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
 - ii. CFIA reminded the USDA NOP that this scope is not within COR mandate
- e. Apiculture

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7. CFIA updates

- a. Sr. management changes at CFIA:
 - i. New National Manager, Strategies & Planning: Kathy Twardek
 - ii. New Program Specialist, Labeling, Organic & Packaging: David Ladd
- b. New Canadian Organic Standards (COS) released November 25, 2015
 - i. Reviewing comments currently and expecting regulations to go out for public comment in Canada Gazette.
 - ii. Anticipating that aquaculture will come into scope
 - iii. No changes expected for renegotiations of equivalencies
- c. CFIA attended BioFach and presented a session on plurilateral/multilateral arrangements

8. Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and ISO 17065 Accreditation

- a. USDA NOP discussed material review programs and their roles under the USDA organic program. NOP met with OMRI during NOSB meetings this week: OMRI discussed that they provide material review services in Canada (per “Input Verification under COR” memo from CFIA). USDA wants to confirm that OMRI ISO 17065 accreditation by USDA AMS is accepted (per CFIA memo). USDA AMS has granted ISO 17065 accreditation to OMRI for the scope of the National Organic Program and CAN/CGSB 32.311 Input Product Review.
- b. CFIA confirmed that OMRI may be used by Canadian CBs for material review as an accepted third party (per CFIA memo requirement #3), CFIA will evaluate this situation further.
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9. Plurilateral trade arrangements

- a. U.S. and EU have developed a non-paper on the plurilateral concept that contains broad ideas and to foster further discussions. The group is also working closely with Switzerland (CH).
- b. CH is organizing the first government to government meeting (planned for November 2016 in CH). CAN will be formally invited by U.S. to participate in this meeting (after clearance of non-paper is complete).
- c. **ACTION**: USDA will 1) share the non-paper with CFIA and 2) set up a call to review the non-paper with CFIA (tentatively planned for June).

10. USDA update on Mexico

- a. Onsite assessment is completed and was favorable.
- b. Working to further develop the arrangement structure over the summer 2016.
- c. New program has several items to address but USDA is optimistic for establishing equivalency before April 2017.

11. CFIA Updates

- a. Mexico: CFIA negotiations are in-process and are expected to move forward after Mexico concludes negotiations with the EU and U.S.
- b. S. Korea: negotiations with CFIA are in process; S. Korea has assessed CFIA system; now negotiating terms of the arrangement.
- c. EU: The equivalency with EU-CAN was renewed; it now includes organic wine and multi-ingredient products.
- d. CFIA is working to extend equivalency with CH currently

12. ETKO (Turkey)

- a. An additional assessment was conducted by CFIA and a decision will be rendered soon.
- b. USDA has no plans to conduct an onsite assessment currently due to U.S. travel restrictions for Turkey.
- c. **ACTION**: CFIA will inform the USDA NOP of the decision rendered for ETKO.

13. Next Technical Working Group meeting

- a. Tentatively planned for October 2016

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National Manager
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Valeriya Staykova
Lead Auditor
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Benoit Dube
Regulations and Standards Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Miles McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program (NOP)
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Cheri Courtney
Director, Accreditation and International
Activities Division
National Organic Program (NOP)
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Renée Gebault King
Accreditation Manager
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Kelly Strzelecki
Senior Trade Advisor, Processed Products &
Technical Regulations Division
Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS)

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Julia Doherty
Senior Director, SPS and Agricultural
Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
(USTR)
Executive Office of the President



Subject: Minutes of the US-EU Organic Working Group Videoconference, 2 February 2016

Participants: Miles McEvoy, Cheri Courtney, Renée Gebault King (NOP), Kelly Strzelecki (FAS), Julia Doherty (USTR), Joao Onofre, Francesco Meggiolaro, Sergio Pavón González, Klaus Blank, Manuel Rossi Prieto (EC)

1. Plurilateral arrangement

A draft joint non-paper was discussed and finalised during the meeting. Comments on this non-paper had been previously exchanged between both sides.

Some points related to compatibility with WTO rules and to some language used were clarified. A roadmap was agreed to move forward. Regarding potential members, both parties agreed to share the responsibility to present/announce the idea to potential candidate countries, in particular those currently having equivalence arrangements with the EU and the US. US suggested to also include as potential candidates to some developing countries within Latin America (e.g.: Costa Rica). These exploratory discussions should take place in the upcoming months in view of a government-to-government (G2G) discussion that could take place after the summer in a "neutral" country like CH. CH could also be the ideal country to act as the secretariat of this process.

The agreed roadmap is the following:

February-April:

- USNOP will finalise the non-paper including comments made in this meeting and will send it to COM
- Both parties will launch internal consultations. US noted the need to consult the non-paper with stakeholders. EC explained that the non-paper has to be notified at EU level, according to transparency procedures.
- USNOP will suggest a preliminary list of countries to be contacted by each side.
- EC will informally contact CH at Biofach next week to explore their willingness to host the G2G discussion and to act as secretariat. CH has already shown a great interest on the plurilateral agreement.

- Videoconference EU-US by the end of March-beginning of April 2016 to follow-up.

April-July

- Exploratory discussions with equivalent third countries on non-paper

September-October

- G2G discussion in CH

2. US-EU trade arrangement questions

US will send an email with some questions.

3. Update on WTO TBT notifications

The EU-US joint notification was sent to WTO members. EC sent a draft joint notification to Canada and is waiting comments from the Canadian authorities. EC is preparing joint notifications regarding other mutual recognitions.

4. Update on ongoing US and EU equivalency negotiations

US and EC exchanged information on ongoing negotiations with third countries.

On Mexico, US informed that an on-site inspection will take place in March, and equivalence discussions will follow in April. The goal is to conclude negotiations by fall 2016. EC explained that it will try to close its negotiations immediately after and asked US to share the equivalency assessment.

On New Zealand, US has planned to carry out the equivalency assessment in 2017.

On Taiwan, US informed about a peer review that will take place in US in March. US peer review audit proposed for early-2017 in Taiwan. Discussions will continue as US aims to ensure products access to Taiwan, and residue test and hold procedures at border are revised. EC referred to alternative solutions as the recognition of Taiwan's control authority.

On Chile, EC explained that negotiations are very advanced and a trade agreement (not an arrangement) is expected to be signed in 2016.

On Costa Rica, US confirmed interest in having equivalency recognition but there are significant concerns about Costa Rica's lack of investigation and enforcement on fraudulent products.

5. Update on ETKO

US informed about ETKO's appeal to the decision on withdrawing accreditation. The appeal has no suspension effect. EC expressed concerns about the long procedure needed in US to withdraw accreditation to this CB.

6. Update on EU review

EC explained the state-of-play of negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council. The Dutch Presidency of the EU has planned 6 "trilogue" meetings before July. The aim of the Dutch Presidency is to reach a political agreement in June. This is quite ambitious. Then some months would be needed to prepare the final text. The best scenario would be a final adoption of the new Regulation by the end of 2016.

7. Update on US aquaculture standards

US informed that the adoption of aquaculture standards has slowed but still plan to have a proposal out later in 2016.

8. AOB

OFIS irregularities: EC called attention to delays in US responses to OFIS irregularities' notifications. US expressed its willingness to discuss the situation. US subsequently met via teleconference with EU on February 22, 2016, to clarify EU expectations regarding irregularity closure, especially given the complexity and age of many of the EU irregularity findings. This meeting has resulted in significant progress in irregularity resolution by the US.

Next meeting: March-April 2016

From: [Gebault King, ReneeA - AMS](#)
To: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#); [Courtney, Cheri - AMS](#); [Strzelecki, Kelly - FAS](#); [Doherty, Julia](#)
Subject: Canada comments on meeting minutes
Date: Thursday, June 02, 2016 9:41:10 AM
Attachments: [CFIA ACIA - #8203212 - v1 - 2016 APR 29 US CAN dvc minutes.DOCX](#)

Hi Team!

Attached please find the draft minutes from our teleconference with Canada (29 April 2016). This version includes some edits, mostly added details or clarifications. Please review and let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

I would like to finalize these by Friday, 10 June if possible. Thank you!

Renee GK

USDA NOP

Office: 202.690.1312 | Mobile: (b) (6)

ReneeA.GebaultKing@ams.usda.gov

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- iii. **ACTION:** CFIA will share the pertinent Health Canada contact information with USDA NOP.
 - b. CFIA sent to USDA NOP 18 positive pesticide residue sampling results. The NOP treats these requests for follow-up from the CFIA as complaints (15 deferred; 2 closed; 1 ongoing)
 - i. Another ~~branch program, the National Chemical Residues Monitoring Program, within the~~ CFIA (independent of the organic program) ~~performs~~ manages the sampling/testing for the CFIA organic program, ~~but~~ The CFIA's organic program acknowledges that there are issues with timeliness of notices and accuracy-completeness of sample information. ~~have occurred.~~
 - ii. The CFIA organic program staff may re-evaluate this process and focus on using a risk assessment approach; USDA NOP would be interested in reviewing the CFIA proposed directive.
 - c. Re-assessment (refer to item #4)
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 - i. USDA and CFIA agreed last year to change the attestation to an import certificate requirement
 - ii. USDA is developing a proposed rule to require import certificates for all product entering the U.S. (not just for equivalence arrangements)
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 - ii. Task force report to the NOSB will be completed in June; NOP expects proposals at the November 2016 NOSB meeting.
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 - ii. Address this item during equivalency renewal because it is not currently part of the arrangement.
 - iii. *Aquaculture products are not under the scope of the current Organic Products Regulations in Canada.*
 - d. Pet Food

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 - ~~ii.~~ New National Manager Director, Strategies & Planning Consumer Protection and Market Fairness Division: Kathy Twardek
 - ~~iii.~~ New Program Specialist, Labeling, Organic & Packaging: David Ladd
 - b. New Canadian Organic Standards (COS) released November 25, 2015
 - c. ~~Reviewing comments currently~~ and expecting the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations to go ~~to out~~ pre-publication for public comment in Canada Gazette, Part I in late 2016.
 - i. Anticipating that aquaculture will ~~come~~ be included into the scope of the organic part of the regulations
 - ii. No changes expected for renegotiations of equivalencies
 - d. CFIA attended BioFach and presented a session on plurilateral/multilateral arrangements
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To: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#); [Courtney, Cheri - AMS](#); [Strzelecki, Kelly - FAS](#); [Doherty, Julia](#)
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Attachments: [2016 Apr 29 US CAN dvc draft minutes.docx](#)

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 - ii. T task force report to the NOSB will be completed in June; NOP expects proposals at the November 2016 NOSB meeting.
 - iii. **ACTION**: NOP share link to report when available on NOP website
 - iv. Address this item again during equivalency renewal.
- c. Aquaculture
 - i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
 - ii. Address this item during equivalency renewal because it is not currently part of the arrangement.
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 - ii. CFIA reminded the USDA NOP that this scope is not within COR mandate

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- a. USDA NOP discussed material review programs and their roles under the USDA organic program. NOP met with OMRI during NOSB meetings this week: OMRI discussed trying to provide material review services in Canada (per “Input Verification under COR” memo from CFIA). OMRI wants to confirm that OMRI ISO 17065 accreditation is accepted (per CFIA memo).
 - b. CFIA explained that ISO 17065 is only for certification bodies to certify organic products under COR; CFIA cannot recognize or accredit OMRI under their system to ISO 17065; OMRI may be used by CBs for material review only (per CFIA memo requirement #3) as an accepted third party, but OMRI cannot refer to accreditation to COR. CFIA will evaluate this situation further.
 - c. USDA and CFIA agreed that the responsibility for material approval still lies ultimately with the CB.
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- a. U.S. and EU have developed a non-paper on the plurilateral concept that contains broad ideas and to foster further discussions. The group is also working closely with Switzerland (CH).
 - b. CH is organizing the first government to government meeting (planned for November 2016 in CH). CAN will be formally invited by U.S. to participate in this meeting (after clearance of non-paper is complete).

- c. **ACTION**: USDA will 1) share the non-paper with CFIA and 2) set up a call to review the non-paper with CFIA (tentatively planned for June).

10. USDA update on Mexico

- a. Onsite assessment is completed and was favorable.
- b. Working to further develop the arrangement structure over the summer 2016.
- c. New program has several items to address but USDA is optimistic for establishing equivalency before April 2017.

11. CFIA Updates

- a. Mexico: CFIA negotiations are in-process and are expected to move forward after Mexico concludes negotiations with the EU and U.S.
- b. S. Korea: negotiations with CFIA are in process; S. Korea has assessed CFIA system; now negotiating terms of the arrangement.
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- d. CFIA is working to extend equivalency with CH currently

12. ETKO (Turkey)

- a. An additional assessment was conducted by CFIA and a decision will be rendered soon.
- b. USDA has no plans to conduct an onsite assessment currently due to U.S. travel restrictions for Turkey.
- c. **ACTION**: CFIA will inform the USDA NOP of the decision rendered for ETKO.

13. Next Technical Working Group meeting

- a. Tentatively planned for October 2016

Canada – U.S. Organic Equivalence Discussions

April 29, 2016 – by Teleconference

Participants

Canada

Rola Yehia
National Manager
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Valeriya Staykova
Lead Auditor
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Benoit Dube
Regulations and Standards Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Miles McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program (NOP)
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Cheri Courtney
Director, Accreditation and International
Activities Division
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Renée Gebault King
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Kelly Strzelecki
Senior Trade Advisor, Processed Products &
Technical Regulations Division
Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS)

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Julia Doherty
Senior Director, SPS and Agricultural
Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
(USTR)
Executive Office of the President

From: [Valeriya Staykova](#)
To: [Gebault King, ReneeA - AMS](#)
Cc: [Courtney, Cheri - AMS](#); [Benoit Dube](#)
Subject: Re: 29 April draft minutes US-CFIA
Date: Thursday, June 02, 2016 9:30:12 AM
Attachments: [CFIA ACIA - #8203212 - v1 - 2016 APR 29 US CAN dvc minutes.DOCX](#)

Dear Renée,

Thank you for drafting the minutes and for the opportunity to comment. We have included our edits for your consideration in the attached copy of the minutes.

Regards,
Valeriya

Valeriya Staykova
Lead Auditor /Chef-auditeur
Labelling, Organic Regime and Packaging/
Étiquetage, Le Régime Bio et Emballage
Consumer Protection and Market Fairness | Division de la protection des consommateurs et de l'équité des marchés
Canadian Food Inspection Agency | Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

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valeriya.staykova@inspection.gc.ca

>>> "Gebault King, ReneeA - AMS" <ReneeA.GebaultKing@ams.usda.gov> 2016-05-16 1:26 PM >>>
Dear Valeriya,

Please find attached the draft minutes from our recent teleconference held on 29 April 2016. I would appreciate it if you and your team could review these draft minutes and provide any edits in "track changes" mode.

Kind regards,

Renée

Renée Gebault King, Ph.D.
Accreditation Manager

Office: 202.690.1312 | Mobile: (b) (6)
ReneeA.GebaultKing@ams.usda.gov

USDA National Organic Program | 1400 Independence Ave SW | Room 2649-South, Stop 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250-0268 | Tel: 202.720.3252 | Fax: 202.205.7808 | www.ams.usda.gov/nop
Subscribe to the USDA's [Organic Insider](#) to receive updates in your e-mail!

Canada – U.S. Technical Working Group

April 29, 2016 – by Teleconference

Time/Location:

1:30-3:00 pm. Washington D.C., USA

- Room 409, USTR, 1724 F St. NW
- IP Address: 65.207.24.228
- Telephone in room: 202.395.6077

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Ottawa, CAN

<u>Cisco</u> IP based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
	OR	(b) (6) @video.gc.ca
	OR	(b) (6) @205.193.227.21
<u>Polycom</u> IP based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
	OR	(b) (6) ##(b) (6)
	OR	video.gc.ca##(b) (6)
<u>ISDN</u> based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6) Enter (b) (6) “#” when prompted.
By Telephone		(b) (6) OR (b) (6) Enter (b) (6) “#” when prompted.

Purpose:

Ongoing discussions for maintenance of the equivalence agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Connected via teleconference.
2. Review June 10, 2015 meeting minutes
 - a. Compliance issues
 - i. Bob Thomas: CFIA sent information to USDA NOP; CFIA received letter from the USDA NOP; issue is resolved.
 - ii. Natural Health Products: this issue is under the authority of Health Canada; USDA NOP has not yet been contacted by Health Canada.

- iii. **ACTION:** CFIA will share the pertinent Health Canada contact information with USDA NOP.
 - b. CFIA sent to USDA NOP 18 positive pesticide residue sampling results. The NOP treats these requests for follow-up from the CFIA as complaints (15 deferred; 2 closed; 1 ongoing)
 - i. Another ~~branch program, the National Chemical Residues Monitoring Program, within the~~ CFIA (independent of the organic program) ~~performs~~ manages the sampling/testing for the CFIA organic program, ~~but The CFIA's organic program acknowledges that there are~~ issues with timeliness of notices and ~~accuracy-completeness~~ of sample information. ~~have occurred.~~
 - ii. The CFIA organic program staff may re-evaluate this process and focus on using a risk assessment approach; USDA NOP would be interested in reviewing the CFIA proposed directive.
 - c. Re-assessment (refer to item #4)
 - i. CFIA provided updated standards and a summary of the key changes side-by-side
 - ii. US conducting our own side-by-side analysis and a desk audit
 - d. Role of "observer" clarification (refer to #6 Plurilateral)
 - e. NOP provided update on Mexico
3. Annual Reports
- a. Annual reports shared
 - b. NOP: no questions at this time
 - c. CFIA: follow-up questions
 - i. Sampling and testing: NOP explained policy on mandatory sampling (require 5% minimum per 2013 requirement); NOP conducted training and published instructions for certifiers.
 - ii. Requested clarification on the list of ACAs posted on website
 - 1. "Certifiers active by country" list per the ACA 1) statement of geographical activity (self-report, from audit, or by request), 2) by US state, or 3) alphabetically.
4. Re-assessment of U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (USCOEA)
- a. Proposed timeline:
 - i. The side-by-side analysis and desk audit process will continue into May and the summer 2016:
 - ii. **ACTION:** Within two weeks, CFIA will send a table to NOP that contains the COR standards for NOP to use as part of the desk audit (standards comparison)

- iii. September : Post-desk audit review and discussion via videoconference
 - iv. Spring 2017: On-site assessment of each program
 - v. Summer 2017: Finalize terms of the USCOEA
 - b. Organic import certificates status update
 - i. USDA and CFIA agreed last year to change the attestation to an import certificate requirement
 - ii. USDA is developing a proposed rule to require import certificates for all product entering the U.S. (not just for equivalence arrangements)
 - iii. CFIA still exploring options; trying to use an existing form if possible; the organic import certificate proposal is a priority for this fiscal year.
 - iv. Address this item again during equivalency renewal.
5. USCOEA questions
- a. COR CB accreditation in Third Country (“Country A” trade scenario)
 - b. Trade route is based on the competent authority to ensure it meets the terms of the specific arrangement
6. USDA updates
- a. Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP):
 - i. NOP published proposed rule on April 15; comment period open to domestic and international comment until June 13; the timeline to review all comments and finalize the rule is not specific.
 - ii. Address this further during equivalency renewal
 - iii. **ACTION**: NOP to share web link about OLPP release with CFIA
 - b. Hydroponics
 - i. The NOSB Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force is currently working on this issue.
 - ii. Task force report to the NOSB will be completed in June; NOP expects proposals at the November 2016 NOSB meeting.
 - iii. **ACTION**: NOP share link to report when available on NOP website
 - iv. Address this item again during equivalency renewal.
 - c. Aquaculture
 - i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
 - ii. Address this item during equivalency renewal because it is not currently part of the arrangement.
 - iii. [Aquaculture products are not under the scope of the current *Organic Products Regulations in Canada.*](#)
 - d. Pet Food

- i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
 - ii. CFIA reminded the USDA NOP that this scope is not within COR mandate
 - e. Apiculture
 - i. NOP plans to have a proposed rule by summer 2016, which will go out for public comment, after which a final regulation is the goal; the proposed rule essentially reflects the NOSB recommendations.
7. CFIA updates
- a. Sr. management changes at CFIA:
 - i. New Executive Director, Food Import/Export and Consumer Protection Directorate: Lyzette Lamondin
 - ~~ii.~~ New National Manager Director, Strategies & Planning Consumer Protection and Market Fairness Division: Kathy Twardek
 - ~~iii.~~ New Program Specialist, Labeling, Organic & Packaging: David Ladd
 - b. New Canadian Organic Standards (COS) released November 25, 2015
 - c. ~~Reviewing comments currently~~ and expecting the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations to go ~~to out~~ pre-publication for public comment in Canada Gazette, Part I in late 2016.
 - i. Anticipating that aquaculture will ~~come~~ be included into the scope of the organic part of the regulations
 - ii. No changes expected for renegotiations of equivalencies
 - d. CFIA attended BioFach and presented a session on plurilateral/multilateral arrangements
8. Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and ISO 17065 Accreditation
- a. USDA NOP discussed material review programs and their roles under the USDA organic program. NOP met with OMRI during NOSB meetings this week: OMRI discussed that they provide material review services in Canada (per “Input Verification under COR” memo from CFIA). USDA wants to confirm that OMRI ISO 17065 accreditation by USDA AMS is accepted (per CFIA memo). USDA AMS has granted ISO 17065 accreditation to OMRI for the scope of the National Organic Program and CAN/CGSB 32.311 Input Product Review.
 - b. CFIA confirmed that OMRI may be used by Canadian CBs for material review as an accepted third party (per CFIA memo requirement #3); CFIA will evaluate this situation further.

- c. USDA and CFIA agreed that the responsibility for material approval still lies ultimately with the CB.

9. Plurilateral trade arrangements

- a. U.S. and EU have developed a non-paper on the plurilateral concept that contains broad ideas and to foster further discussions. The group is also working closely with Switzerland (CH).
- b. CH is organizing the first government to government meeting (planned for November 2016 in CH). CAN will be formally invited by U.S. to participate in this meeting (after clearance of non-paper is complete).
- c. **ACTION**: USDA will 1) share the non-paper with CFIA and 2) set up a call to review the non-paper with CFIA (tentatively planned for June).

10. USDA update on Mexico

- a. Onsite assessment is completed and was favorable.
- b. Working to further develop the arrangement structure over the summer 2016.
- c. New program has several items to address but USDA is optimistic for establishing equivalency before April 2017.

11. CFIA Updates

- a. Mexico: CFIA negotiations are in-process and are expected to move forward after Mexico concludes negotiations with the EU and U.S.
- b. S. Korea: negotiations with CFIA are in process; S. Korea and the has-assessed CFIA have assessed each other's system; now negotiating terms of the arrangement.
- c. EU: The EU-CAN equivalency ~~with EU-CAN~~ was renewedexpanded; it now includes organic wine and Canadian multi-ingredient products containing imported ingredients.
- d. CFIA is currently working to extend the equivalency with CH currentlysimilarly as with the EU

12. ETKO (Turkey)

- a. An additional assessment was conducted by CFIA and a decision will be rendered soon.
- b. USDA has no plans to conduct an onsite assessment currently due to U.S. travel restrictions for Turkey.
- c. **ACTION**: CFIA will inform the USDA NOP of the decision rendered for ETKO.

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- a. Tentatively planned for October 2016

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April 29, 2016 – by Teleconference

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Senior Director, SPS and Agricultural
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(USTR)
Executive Office of the President

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From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Gebault King, ReneeA - AMS](#); [Courtney, Cheri - AMS](#); [Strzelecki, Kelly - FAS](#); [Doherty, Julia](#)
Subject: RE: Canada meeting, draft minutes
Date: Thursday, May 05, 2016 1:49:24 PM
Attachments: [2016 Apr 29 US CAN dvc draft minutes-mvm.docx](#)

Thanks Renee!
Redline edits attached.
Miles

From: Gebault King, ReneeA - AMS
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 1:26 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS <Miles.McEvoy@ams.usda.gov>; Courtney, Cheri - AMS <Cheri.Courtney@ams.usda.gov>; Strzelecki, Kelly - FAS <Kelly.Strzelecki@fas.usda.gov>; Doherty, Julia <julia_doherty@ustr.eop.gov>
Subject: Canada meeting, draft minutes

Hi, Team!

Attached are the draft minutes from last Friday's teleconference with Canada. I would appreciate it if you could review these minutes and provide feedback (track changes mode).

I would like to send the minutes to Canada by the end of the week if possible. Thanks!

Renee GK

USDA NOP

Office: 202.690.1312 | Mobile: (b) (6)

ReneeA.GebaultKing@ams.usda.gov

Canada – U.S. Technical Working Group

April 29, 2016 – by Teleconference

Time/Location:

1:30-3:00 pm. Washington D.C., USA

- Room 409, USTR, 1724 F St. NW
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1:30 p m. – 3:00 p.m. Ottawa, CAN

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Polycom IP based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
	OR	(b) (6) ##(b) (6)
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ISDN based Videoconferencing system	DIAL	(b) (6)
By Telephone		Enter (b) (6) “#” when prompted.
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- f. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

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Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

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Senior Director, SPS and Agricultural
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Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
(USTR)
Executive Office of the President

From: [Yang, RobertH - AMS](mailto:Yang.RobertH@AMS)
To: Valeriya.Staykova@inspection.gc.ca
Cc: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](mailto:McEvoy.Miles@AMS); [Strzelecki, Kelly - FAS](mailto:Strzelecki.Kelly@FAS); [Courtney, Cheri - AMS](mailto:Courtney.Cheri@AMS); Andrea.Leclair@inspection.gc.ca; Gary.Little@inspection.gc.ca; ["Heather.Holland@inspection.gc.ca"](mailto:Heather.Holland@inspection.gc.ca); Marie-Claire.Hurteau@inspection.gc.ca
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW- Draft Minutes from the US-Canada Working Group on OEA- Feb.16, 2017
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:09:06 PM
Attachments: [CFIA ACIA - #9082501 - v1 - COR- Minutes from the US-Canada WG on Organic equivalency US Comments.DOCX](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hello Valeriya:

Please find attached the draft minutes with corrections made to #4a. With those changes, the US Team approves the minutes.

Regards,

Robert Yang

Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Accreditaiton & International Activities Division

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From: Valeriya Staykova [<mailto:Valeriya.Staykova@inspection.gc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Courtney, Cheri - AMS <Cheri.Courtney@ams.usda.gov>; McEvoy, Miles - AMS <Miles.McEvoy@ams.usda.gov>
Cc: Andrea Leclair <Andrea.Leclair@inspection.gc.ca>; Gary Little <Gary.Little@inspection.gc.ca>; Heather Holland <Heather.Holland@inspection.gc.ca>; Marie-Claire Hurteau <Marie-Claire.Hurteau@inspection.gc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW- Draft Minutes from the US-Canada Working Group on OEA- Feb.16, 2017

Dear Miles and Cheri,

Please find attached the draft minutes from our recent teleconference held on February 16, 2017 for your review. I would appreciate it if you and your team could review the minutes and provide any edits in "track changes" mode.

As discussed please note that the Government of Canada launched a public consultation on new rules to strengthen food safety. The proposed *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* would better protect Canadian families by putting a greater emphasis on preventing food safety risks for all foods imported into Canada or sold across provinces. The regulations would also apply to foods prepared for export.

- The 90-day consultation closes on April 21, 2017.
- The proposal consolidates 14 sets of existing regulations into one. **The *Organic Products Regulations* form Part 14 of the SFCR** . I have attached copy of the proposed regulations for your review.
- The CFIA has consulted stakeholders on this initiative since 2013, including a targeted consultation with small businesses in 2015.
- Information and guidance is available to explain key elements of the proposal and what would be expected of food businesses, including videos, interactive tools, fact sheets, templates and a handbook.

Additional links

- ? Pre-publication of the [proposed regulations](http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-01-21/html/reg1-eng.php#reg) in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I - <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-01-21/html/reg1-eng.php#reg>
- ? [Backgrounder: Proposed Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#)
- ? [Safe Food for Canadians Act](#)
- ? [Learn more and have your say](#) at inspection.gc.ca/safefood

Kind regards,

Valeriya

Valeriya Staykova
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Minutes

Canada -U.S. Technical Working Group

February 16, 2017 – by Teleconference

Participants:

U.S. Department of Agriculture:

1. Miles McEvoy Deputy Administrator National Organic Program (NOP)
2. Robert Yang Accreditation Manager National Organic Program (NOP)
3. Kelly Strzelecki Senior Trade Advisor, Processed Products & Technical Regulations Division Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

1. Dr. Gary Little , National Manager Food Systems Evaluation
2. Heather Holland, Manager Foreign Relations and Issues Management
3. Valeriya Staykova, Lead Auditor, Food Systems Evaluation
4. Marie-Claire Hurteau, Senior Program Officer Labelling, Organic and Packaging
5. Judy Waldron , Market Access Officer – Americas and the Caribbean

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of April 29, 2016 meeting minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

ACTION: CFIA will share the pertinent Health Canada contact information with USDA NOP.

ACTION: National Organic Program (NOP) will share link to the NOSB Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force Report

3. CFIA
 - a. New Canada Organic Regime Structure

The Canadian Organic Office (COO) no longer exists as a separate office and the responsibilities for the implementation and the enforcement of the Canada Organic Regime (COR) are shared between the Food Import Export Division and the Consumer Protection and Market Fairness Division of the CFIA. The Food Systems Evaluation

Section of the Food Import Export Division is responsible for both the Food Safety Audits and the COR audits/assessments. The Foreign Relations and Issues Management Section of the Food Import Export Division is responsible for the existing equivalency arrangements including coordination of the international working groups.

Food Labelling Section of the Consumer protection and Market Fairness Division is responsible for the SIC, Organic Standard and the interpretation of the regulations as relates to labelling requirements.

It was confirmed that the main contact for the US Canada Working Group will be Heather Holland, Manager Foreign Relations and Issues Management.

b. Regulatory update/changes

The Government of Canada launched a public consultation on new rules to strengthen food safety. The proposed Safe Food for Canadians Regulations would better protect Canadian families by putting a greater emphasis on preventing food safety risks for all foods imported into Canada or sold across provinces. The proposal consolidates 14 sets of existing regulations into one. The Organic Products Regulations form Part 14 of the SFCR

The 90-day consultation closes on April 21, 2017.

Information and guidance explaining key elements of the proposal and what would be expected of food businesses, including videos, interactive tools, fact sheets, templates and a handbook can be found at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-initiatives/sfca/consultation/learn/eng/1427299500843/1427299800380>

Revised versions of the Canadian Organic Standards were published on November 25, 2015. This update included:

- CAN/CGSB 32.310 - Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards; and
- CAN/CGSB 32.311 - Organic Production Systems – Permitted Substances Lists.

4. USDA

a. Livestock and Poultry Practices

NOP published the document on January 19~~8~~, 2017. It is currently under review by the new administration. The effective date is delayed from March 20, 2017, to a new effective date of review period ends May 19~~8~~, 2017. Some key requirements include specific changes to the space requirements for chickens and 5-year implementation

period for currently certified operations to comply with the indoor and outdoor access requirements.

b. Organic corn and soy imports from Turkey

NOP is currently investigating increased imports of organic corn and soy from Eastern Europe.

ACTION: NOP will share with CFIA any intelligence with regards to imports of the organic products to Canada and re-export to the US.

c. Organic import certificates status

Initially the NOP was planning to introduce organic import certificates for all organic shipments. Because of logistics challenges with this proposed option, NOP is looking at different options that are currently in place for other programs in the US regarding the transaction/import certificates.

CFIA is exploring options under the proposed SFCR.

d. ETKO status

NOP advised that US NOP and ETKO signed a settlement agreement in 2016 followed by a compliance audit.

ACTION: NOP will share with CFIA link to the settlement agreement and the results from the compliance audit.

5. Re-assessment of U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (USCOEA)

Proposed timeline:

- a. The side-by-side analysis and desk review - in progress.

NOP will provide desk review report with outstanding questions prior to the on-site visit

- b. Fall 2017: On-site assessment in Canada
- c. Canada will conduct an on-site assessment in the US following the assessment in Canada

6. USCOEA question

USDA-authorized certifier client wants to produce products to the USDA organic regulations "Made with Organic" labeling category that is intended to be shipped and marketed in the US under MWO claim, only.

ACTION: NOP will provide additional information to CFIA in regards to this request.

7. Plurilateral trade arrangements

CFIA continues to be interested in participating in the various working groups.

8. Next Technical Working Group meeting – To be confirmed at later date

DRAFT