

## **Main Changes to the Québec Organic Specification Manual (15-01-2019)**

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- Merging of the 4 current sections of the Québec organic specification manual into a single document and an appendix.
- Changes to the main specification manual:
  - Update of the specification manual to take into consideration requirements included in the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR), which enter into force on January 15, 2019.
  - Addition of a section on general normative references. (p.4)
  - Reference to the definitions of Canadian Standards CAN/CGSB-32.310, CAN/CGSB-311 and CAN/CGSB-312.
  - Change in the definition of “organic product,” as specified by the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations. (p.8)
  - Rewording of the scope. Amendment to contracted services, which must be subject to an Attestation of Compliance. (section 1.4 part 1)
  - Rewording of the types of companies that must be certified. (section 3 part 1)
  - Deletion of the private label business section, as they are now subject to product certification; therefore, refer to section 3 part 1.
  - Broadening of protected terms (based on the reference to the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations). (section 1 part 2)
  - Broadening of scope to include “organic farm, organic farmer, organic farming, organic cuisine...). (section 6.2 part 2)
- Amendments to the appendix:
  - Rewording of the requirements without changing the meaning.
  - Update of the final table according to the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations.
- Aquaculture:

The organic production aquaculture standard used in Québec complies with the principles of the current CAN/CGSB-32.312. However, the Standard CAN/CGSB-32.312 is only recognized for aquatic plants (meaning naturally growing in water); the certification criteria are therefore not applicable to land plant cultivation.

*Note: pages and sections identified in this note are those of the Specification Manual.*