

The Organic Consumer Checklist

A few critical questions you should answer before buying organic products

What terms does the organic designation refer to?	Where can we find these references on labels?	What needs to be verified in order to ensure organic foodstuffs and produces authenticity?	How are these references compliant with the Law?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organic ➤ Biologique ➤ Derivative names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Bio" <p>The reservation of the «organic» designation includes also any other term whose meaning may confuse consumers in a sense that it implicitly claims a product has been organically grown or processed.</p>	<p>1) Packaging primary or secondary panels.</p> <p><i>Examples :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ "Organic Bread" ➤ "Pizza with veggies. Contains 85% of organic ingredients" ➤ Organic Pork Meat <p><i>and/or in</i></p> <p>2) List of Ingredients</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <p>Pocket sandwich "made with organic spinach" with on its list of ingredients, mentions like :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic wheat flour • Organic spinach • Cheddar cheese • Etc. 	<p>The certifier's name must be included on the product's label so that it is clear and easy to read (large legible letters).</p> <p><i>Examples :</i></p> <p>Certified by (certifier's name) Controlled by (certifier's name)</p> <p>Using only the certifier's seal or a government conformity mark does not adequately meet the requirements of the Law.</p> <p>Any inscription such as "<i>Organically grown and processed in accordance with the (State Name) law...</i>" is considered to be an unsubstantiated claim if the certifier's name does not appear on the product's packaging.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Products <i>made in Québec</i> must bear the name of one of six certifying bodies accredited by the CARTV. ➤ <i>Products originating from outside Québec</i> must bear the name of one of the bodies included on the CFIA's accredited certification bodies list published within the framework of the Canada Organic Regime. ➤ For further information, please visit our website at www.cartv.gouv.qc.ca <p>Should you have any doubts regarding a product's authenticity, ask your retailer for additional information or lodge a complaint to the CARTV by phone at 514.864.8999 or by email at surveillance@cartv.gouv.qc.ca. <i>Each case is handled with the utmost confidentiality.</i></p>