

# Specification Manual Related to Products Bearing Descriptive Labelling Referring to Organic Production Method

Part 1: Persons to whom the specification manual applies and related obligations

<b>DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2 REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTROLLING AND MARKETING ORGANIC PRODUCTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. COMPANIES THAT MARKET AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCED USING AN ORGANIC PRODUCTION METHOD .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4 EXEMPTIONS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5 EXCEPTIONS.....</b>	<b>14</b>

Version: 13.0

Last version of the requirements: January 25, 2016  
Last editorial update: January 25, 2016

## Definitions

<b>Aeroponics</b> (aéroponie)	Soil-free cultivation method whereby plants are suspended with their roots exposed to the air.
<b>Agricultural Product</b> (Produit agricole)	Any agricultural or food product, either in its raw or processed state, that is to be marketed for human consumption (other than water, salt and additives) or for animal feed.
<b>Aquaponics</b> (aquaponie)	Raising of fish and cultivation of plants together in a re-circulation system.
<b>Board</b> (Conseil)	<p>The <i>Conseil des appellations réservées et des termes valorisants</i> (CARTV), hereinafter referred to as the Board, has jurisdiction over agriculture and food products bearing a reserved designation and sold on Québec territory. By virtue of the powers conferred upon it, the Board acts as a competent authority on behalf of the Quebec's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredite bodies that comply with the applicable accreditation manual as certification bodies;</li> <li>• Advise the Minister on the recognition of reserved designations;</li> <li>• Monitor the use of recognized reserved designations.</li> </ul>
<b>Bulk</b> (Vrac)	Merchandise sold by retailers usually displayed within containers (display units, barrels, bins, etc.) directly accessible by consumers and allowing them to purchase a quantity based on their needs.
<b>Certification</b> (Certification)	Procedure whereby officially approved certification bodies declare in writing, or in an equivalent manner, their assurance that food products or food monitoring systems conform with specified requirements. Depending on the case, food certification may be based on a full complement of controls providing for ongoing inspections of the production chain, quality control system audits and the examination of finished products.
<b>Certification Body</b> (Organisme de certification)	A body directing the certification process, responsible for inspecting products sold or labelled as "organic" that are produced, processed, prepared, handled or imported in compliance with these standards.
<b>Certified Product</b> (Produit certifié)	Any product subject to certification, be it a tangible product intended for consumption (finished) or processing (primary) in the form of an ingredient, and distributed by the enterprise responsible for ensuring that products meet and, if applicable, continue to meet requirements upon which the certification is based.
<b>Compliance Certificate</b> (Certificat de conformité)	Official document issued by a certification body attesting that a product has met requirements applying to organic production, preparation or any other operation leading to a change in labelling.

<b>Enterprise</b> (Entreprise)	A natural or legal person that carries out one or more operations related to agricultural and food products, whether for its own account or on behalf of others, or have produced or prepared either for its own account or on behalf of others, such that these products meet requirements pertaining to the production, preparation and/or labelling of products having organic content and that are subject to certification. The company's activities can be conducted at one or more sites that are under its responsibility.
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<b>Hydroponics</b> (hydroponie)	Cultivation of plants in aqueous nutrient solutions without the aid of soil.
<b>Ingredient</b> (Ingrédient)	Substance, including a food additive, used in the manufacturing or preparation of a product. This substance is present in the final product, possibly in a modified form.
<b>Input</b> (Intrant)	Substance used in the organic production system in accordance with Canada's National Standard on Organic Production Systems, particularly fertilizers, animal supplements, phytosanitary products, soil amendments, veterinary treatments, processing aids or additives, cleaning and sanitizing agents.
<b>Inspection</b> (Inspection)	Evaluation of the level of compliance obtained by a product, a process or a system, according to prescribed requirements. For food produced by organic agriculture, inspection includes the examination of production and processing systems.
<b>Label</b> (Étiquette)	Any display of printed or written wording, or graphic symbols present on a food product, or associated with a food product, in order to advance sales.
<b>Marketing</b> (Commercialisation)	Keeping or displaying with the intent of selling or putting on sale, delivering or any other process by which products are marketed for commercial purposes.
<b>Operation</b> (Opération)	Part of an activity comprised of a series of concrete, methodical and planned actions carried out by an enterprise in order to yield a product that meets specific requirements. Every operation belongs to one of the following categories: production or preparation.
<b>Operation Site</b> (Site d'exploitation)	Location used by an enterprise within a specific geographical area and including grounds and premises used to supply products falling within a specific category. Each operation site shall be subjected to a specific inspection visit. For this reason, a farm and a maple products operation even when located in adjacent areas, comprise two different operation sites since their respective products belong to different production categories, which require inspections at different times of the year. An operation site may be comprised of one or more manufacturing units.
<b>Organic</b> (Biologique)	Labelling term that denotes products that have been produced in accordance with organic production standards and certified as such by a duly accredited certification body.

<b>Organic Integrity</b> (Intégrité biologique)	The maintenance of the inherent organic qualities of a product from its production (including receipt of ingredients in the case of prepared products) through to the point of final sale, in accordance with the requirements of these standards.
<b>Organic Product</b> (Produit biologique)	Commodity or output that has been produced under a system that meets organic product standards which has been declared compliant by means of a certificate issued by an accredited certification body.

<b>Packaging</b> (Conditionnement)	Type of preparation operation carried out by a company which, in order to offer an organic product for sale, obtains certified products from one or more suppliers, divides or groups them, and then repackages, rebottles or simply offers them in bulk or relabelled. As a result, changes are made to the original labelling of these certified products without the product having been processed.
<b>Pre-Certification</b> (Pré-certification)	Attestation applied to enterprises being monitored by a certification body during the last year of their organic transition period. Under no circumstances shall this Québec attestation be the subject of organic product sales agreements or used for promotional purposes.
<b>Preparation</b> (Préparation)	Operations involving slaughter and cutting, processing, storage, grading, wrapping, assembling, preservation and packaging of agricultural products, and also other operations resulting in alterations made to the labelling concerning the presentation of the organic production method. Excluded from preparation are the following operations: trimming of non-edible parts, washing with water, dilution or reconstitution of any dry or concentrated product with water as a direct service to the consumer, to provide an individual portion, without subsequent heating of this portion.
<b>Production</b> (Production)	Operations undertaken to supply agricultural products in the state in which they occur on the farm, including initial packaging and labelling of the product.
<b>Production Unit</b> (Unité de production)	A clearly defined area within an enterprise's operation site used to produce an agricultural product or specific foodstuffs generated from a particular category of operation. The production unit generally includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in agricultural production, one or more fields located in close proximity with each other;</li> <li>• in livestock production, buildings for animal raising and pastures;</li> <li>• in maple production, buildings and sugar bushes;</li> <li>• in aquaculture, basins or ponds as well as surrounding grounds;</li> <li>• in food preparation, the enterprise with its buildings and grounds.</li> </ul>

<b>Tangible Product</b> (Produit tangible)	Good or object that are of a concrete physical or material nature (in the context of these standards, agricultural, aquacultural or food product).
<b>Traceability</b> (Traçabilité)	Monitoring procedure that provides the operator with the ability to trace and follow a food or a feed represented as organic or any product containing organic ingredients, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.
<b>Transaction Certificate or Declaration</b> (Certificat ou attestation de transaction)	Official document issued by a certification body during organic product transactions (this is the key document used to track the amount of product sold).

Since January 1, 2012, the specification manual pertaining to products produced using the organic production method has included a certification reference manual based on the National Standard for Organic Agriculture published by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB).

The various sections of the Québec organic specification manual were updated following the publication of the [National Standards for Organic Agriculture](#) (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311).

Note that the CARTV may not grant an exemption under the Canada Organic Regime for products intended for international and interprovincial trade.

## **1 Legal and regulatory framework**

### **1.1 Act Respecting Reserved Designations and Added-Value Claims**

1.1.1 In 2006, the Québec government passed the *Act Respecting Reserved Designations and Added-Value Claims* (A20.02) (hereinafter referred to as the Act). This legislation, which replaced the 1996 *Act respecting reserved designations*, was enacted to control the designations that are assigned to agricultural and food products as an attestation of their production method, terroir or specificity. Another objective of this legislation is to monitor the use of these designations.

1.1.2 Section 63 of the Act Respecting Reserved Designations and Added-Value Claims stipulates that: "A person may not use a recognized reserved designation or authorized added-value claim on a product, its packaging or its labelling, in advertising or commercial documents or in the presentation of a product unless the person is registered with an accredited certification body and the product is certified by such a body as compliant with the applicable specification manual or regulation.

A person to whom a specification manual or a regulation authorizing an added-value claim applies or whose activities are regulated by such a manual or regulation and who contravenes the first paragraph is guilty of an offence and is liable to the fines set out in Section 68."

### **1.2 Recognition of the term "organic" by the Minister**

On February 1, 2000, the term "organic" became a reserved designation in Québec pursuant to legal notice 33336 published on December 29, 1999 in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, Volume 131, No. 53. The *Conseil des appellations réservées et des termes valorisants* (CARTV) was given the mandate by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to supervise this designation.

The rules governing this designation reservation were specifying that the product must comply with a specification manual whose standards are at least as stringent as those set forth in the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods*, adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program.

The terms "organic" and its translation "biologique" and any other related terms are controlled under the law.

### 1.3 Regulation respecting reserved designations

Recognition of the organic designation confirms the CARTV approval of a specification manual for organic products, for their compliance with the requirements of Section 1 (1) of the *Regulation respecting reserved designations - 2010*, which reads as follows: "In the case of a reserved designation relating to a method of production, the product must result from a comprehensive system of cultivation, breeding or processing, whose standards make it possible to achieve distinctive objectives."

### 1.4 Scope of the Act pertaining to organic designations

For the purposes of applying the Act, all products included within the decree respecting organic reserved designations, whose operations are carried out by an enterprise located in Québec, or are available for sale in Québec, must meet the stipulated certification conditions if they are intended to be sold or marketed with the organic claim.

The products and services covered by the organic designation are as follows:

a) *Agricultural and aquacultural products and foodstuff intended for human or animal consumption:*

- i. Plant products: grown in fields, greenhouses and nurseries; plants harvested in the wild and in forested areas; seeds and plant propagating material; maple products.
- ii. Animal products: livestock, meat, milk and eggs, aquaculture and beekeeping products.
- iii. Prepared products resulting from processing and packaging of organic ingredients that are intended for use (food only) or for human consumption or use and for animal consumption (livestock), including feed for livestock intended for human consumption, food and alcoholic beverages; food supplements; prepared, packaged and labelled meals, which are sold in retail stores or food service outlets.

b) *Products contributing to the production system (inputs):*

These products or their components must comply with the list of permitted substances contained in the document *Permitted Substances List (CAN/CGSB 32.311-2015)* produced by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB). These products must be approved (with written proof) by an accredited certification body and may include a certificate confirming that they are "approved for organic agriculture" or "approved for organic processing." This certificate is valid for one year and is only valid within Québec.

c) *Contracted services:*

Services such as slaughtering, transportation, cutting of animal carcasses, packaging, labelling or seed classification and screening are performed by a supplier at the request of a client who retains ownership of the product.

In order to ensure or maintain the product's organic integrity, these services must be approved by an accredited certification body if the said tangible product is subject to certification.

The service provider can obtain a service certificate from the certification body confirming that the activities are "approved for" (identification of service type) organic."

## 2 Requirements for controlling and marketing organic products

### 2.1 Acceptance of organic products

Products identified as organic that are covered under the Act considering the organic designation may be controlled and marketed in Québec under the following conditions:

- Products whose operations are subject to the Act shall be certified by one of the certification bodies accredited or recognized by the Board for the organic designation.
- Products from outside of Québec must be certified by: i) a certification body that appears on the list of accredited bodies published by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in accordance with the Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards (General Principles and Management Standards CAN/CGBS 32.310 and the Permitted Substances Lists CAN/CGSB 32.311-2015); ii) a certification body recognized under a trade agreement between Canada and a competent foreign authority concluded in accordance with the Organic Products Regulations; or iii) a certification body recognized by the CARTV in accordance with the Regulations Pertaining to Recognition of Bodies Certifying Products from Outside Quebec.
- Any food products whose packaging – apart from the list of ingredients – a claim 70% - 95% organic ingredients, excluding water (H<sub>2</sub>O) and salt (NaCl), must be certified by a body mentioned above during the product's production, processing or packaging.
- Any organic ingredient included in a prepared product whose label mentions organic content must first be certified by a body mentioned above.
- All the products, listed according to type or range of products, produced from organic farming, intended to be sold in Québec and within the scope determined by the CARTV must be registered on a certificate issued by an accredited certification body or recognized by the CARTV or by a certification body whose name appears on the list of accredited or recognized bodies published by the CFIA. The certificate must be granted to the company responsible for the production or preparation.

In order for organic products to be sold in Québec, regardless of their origin, their labelling must meet the requirements pertaining to labelling, advertising, display materials and commercial documents, which are stipulated by the CARTV and published on its website (Part 4 of this specification manual).

### 2.2 Prohibitions

2.2.1 The marketing of products bearing the term "organic" is prohibited in the following situations:

- a) the product contains less than 95% organic ingredients;
- b) the product does not meet the requirements outlined in the organic certification reference manual approved in Québec;
- c) the body that issued the compliance certificate is not accredited or recognized by the CARTV or does not appear on the list of accredited or recognized bodies published by the CFIA;

- d) the compliance certificate has been revoked by the certification body, following voluntary relinquishing by the company or a certification discontinuation ordered by the certification body;
- e) the product's labelling is incorrect and it is not listed in the Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption (see Section 4);
- f) the product was certified by a certification body whose scope for the recognized certification program does not cover the category of products concerned;
- g) the product comes from a production system that is in organic conversion;
- h) the same ingredient is found both in organic and non-organic form in the same product.

### 3. Companies that market agri-food products produced using an organic production method

#### 3.1 Companies subject to the requirement to obtain an organic compliance certificate

Regardless whether a product passes one or more of the links of the chain and arrives at the final consumer, whether this product is located within or outside Québec, all the product's stages of production and preparation shall be evaluated by an accredited certification body in order to certify the product.

Regardless whether it is a producer, processor, merchant, wholesaler, distributor or retailer, a natural or legal person, the company responsible for production, preparation or packaging operations must obtain a compliance certificate mentioning the name of the certification body for its product before selling it when claiming that its content is partially or completely organic.

This means that a company must request certification for its product if it:

- Sells a product under its trade name (company or corporate name) bearing its trademark and resulting from any of the operations included in organic production or preparation of organic products and for which it is responsible, *regardless whether it prepares the product itself or has it prepared by subcontractors who do not hold a certification*. Any company based in Québec that acquires certified products from a supplier, and then proceeds to break them down or group them in order to offer them for sale is considered to be carrying out packaging operations and must therefore obtain an organic compliance certificate from a CARTV-accredited certification body for the aforementioned products before offering them for sale and claiming that their contents are partially or entirely organic.

or

- Takes legal possession of the product from a supplier who holds a certification, re-sells it under its trade name so that the information available on the product does not allow the identification of those who supplied the product to the company, *regardless whether or not it physically handled the product between the time of taking legal possession of the product and its resale*. Resale by a certified product

broker under a term contract falls into this category when the transaction documents only mention the name of the broker.

or

- If a subcontractor is used, it must hold a document for the operation it carries out, issued by a CARTV-accredited or recognized body or a certification body that appears on the list of accredited bodies published by the CFIA:
  - If this subcontractor sells under its trade name some of the products resulting from operations that it carries out, it must hold an organic compliance certificate;
  - If it does not sell under its trade name any product resulting from operations that it carries out, it must hold at least a service approval certificate issued by a CARTV-accredited certification body;
  - If it does not hold any document issued by an accredited or recognized body, the activity that it carries out on behalf of its client, which sells it the products in their agreement under its trade name, must have been inspected by the certification body within the framework of the evaluation process carried out by this company in order to certify its products.

### **3.2 Companies that carry out brokerage operations**

- 3.2.1 A brokerage operation generally involves forming large batches to meet the needs of a buyer. Companies such as bargaining agents or sales agents (within the meaning of Québec's Act Respecting the Marketing of Agricultural, Food and Fish Products) that, upon the request of a given buyer, form an agricultural product made from many batches of the same product from several producers are considered to carry out brokerage operations when they take legal possession of the product (by buying it from one or several providers) and resell it under their trade name, this time integrated into a new product in order to meet the buyer's specific request.
- 3.2.2 Products traded by brokers, particularly agricultural products, must be certified by a CARTV-accredited or recognized certification body appearing on the list of accredited bodies published by the CFIA, if the label on the final product no longer mentions the name of the original company that holds the certification, even if they do not change their nature between the time of their acquisition and sale.
- 3.2.3 When food brokers do not buy the product but only market it on behalf of another company without compromising the integrity, and when the label of the final product always mentions the original company's name, they are not subject to organic certification.

### **3.3 Distributors and retailers of products with organic ingredients**

- 3.3.1 Any company that, as a retailer, acquires agricultural and food products (regardless of the origin) and whose label or transaction documents refer to the "organic" designation in order to re-sell them as such to the consumer is not required to request certification for the said products.
- 3.3.2 When products with organic ingredients are involved in transactions or sold on the retail market, the person or establishment having introduced them to the Québec market or who sells them shall:

- obtain a valid certificate attesting to the product's organic compliance;
- ensure that all commercial documents supporting these transactions clearly state that the concerned products have been certified by a certification body;
- ensure that this certification body is included on the list of CARTV-accredited certification bodies when the product originates from Québec or is on the list of certification bodies recognized by the CARTV for an aquacultural product from outside Quebec or on the list of certification bodies accredited or recognized by the CFIA when the product originates from outside Québec;
- ensure that the products meet the labelling requirements published by the CARTV before marketing them;
- indicate only the name (company name) of the certification body that verified the compliance of the most recent operation that resulted in the certified product. This name shall appear on all commercial documents transmitted during subsequent transactions carried out in Québec.

3.3.3 Certified products from a company that no longer holds a compliance certificate for the aforementioned products may be sold, within a maximum period of 12 months following the date of cancellation of the certification, if the company concerned informs the certification body and the CARTV how and when its stock of finished products will be sold (amounts, timelines, client lists, etc.). Products must be recorded in the CARTV's *Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption*. The company is also required to notify its clients. The product shall be deemed certified only under these conditions.

3.3.4 Regardless of their origin, all certified products shall be recertified by a CARTV-accredited body whenever the distributor or retailer carries out one of the following actions before offering it for sale as organic:

- No longer mentions the supplier's name on the certified product's label or transaction documents;
- Compromises the integrity of its packaging during repackaging operations (rewrapping, bottling, repackaging, etc.);
- Processes the certified product in order to obtain a new product;
- Modifies the information appearing on transaction documents, for the purpose of reselling the certified product by hiding the suppliers of the certified product.

### **3.4 Importers of products with organic ingredients**

3.4.1 Acceptance of organic products from outside of Québec is subject to the requirements stipulated in the *Regulations Pertaining to Acceptance of Products Coming from Outside Québec*.

3.4.2. The importer must ensure that products meet Québec labelling requirements published by the CARTV before putting them on the market.

- 3.4.3 The traceability of each organic product must be verified by the company that imports it. It must be demonstrated to the certification body when the company applies for the certification of a product containing imported ingredients.

### **3.5 Companies that offer organic products for sale under a private brand**

- 3.5.1 Any company operating as distributors and retailers, and contracting one or more suppliers for the production, manufacturing, packaging or labelling of food products in order to resell them under a private brand for which these distribution companies or retail outlets hold exclusive rights and intend to affix a label bearing the word "organic" or any derivative term may request certification for these products from an accredited certification body.
- 3.5.2 Distribution or retail companies wishing to resell food products under their own private brands and to make use of the term "organic" on food products originating from independent suppliers with whom they have contracted production, preparation or packaging operations shall ensure that the suppliers' operations have been evaluated by a CARTV-accredited certification body when these operations take place in Québec, or by an accredited or recognized certification body that appears on the list published by the CFIA, when these operations take place outside of Québec, and that all the products sold under a private brand be mentioned in the compliance certificate issued by the certification body concerned.
- 3.5.3 When a company offers an organic product for sale under its own brand but does not have any certification for this product, its label must mention the name (company name) of the body having certified (as a third party) the most recent operation carried out by the supplier of the product.
- 3.5.4 In order to duly monitor the use of certificates and compliance marks, the certification body whose name appears on the label affixed to a certified product shall grant a license to each distributor or retailer that sells this product under its own private brand.  
  
The agreement covering the granting of this license must allow the certification body to exercise appropriate control over the traceability of the certified food products to be sold, and define the rights and obligations of each party regarding the implementation of this operation. This agreement must include provisions allowing the certification body to carry out activities to control the use of its name or certification mark by the company that holds the certification.
- 3.5.5 However, it is not necessary that an organic compliance certificate be granted to the company holding a private brand if the label of the product being resold under a private brand bears identification allowing the manufacturer to be identified. To meet this exception, every organic product being sold under a private brand shall have either the supplier's name or identification code assigned by the certification body on the product's packaging or label.
- 3.5.6 When significant changes are made to a product (for example, modifications to its composition or a change in the certification body) involving the manufacturing or packaging already being done by a supplier under contract, before the product can be officially used, its labelling must

first be revised in order to reflect the changes made, and then approved by the certification body.

- 3.5.7 Furthermore, if a company has a private brand and signs a contract with a new supplier for the processing, packaging and labelling of a product similar to that produced by the previous supplier, the labelling of that product shall be reviewed, and all rules listed in this section shall be applied, just as they would be to a new product.
- 3.5.8 When the contract between a company holding a private brand and its supplier is not renewed, the use of packaging bearing labels for organic products manufactured by this supplier shall cease after the last such item is made and packaged by the supplier, as stated within the framework of the expired contract.

## 4 Exemptions

### 4.1 Exemptions granted under the Québec Organic Designation

Québec companies may receive exemptions that would be granted by the CARTV under the Regulations for Reviewing Applications for Recognition of Designations.

In this case, the product may only be sold in Québec.

### 4.2 Labelling exemptions

Regardless of their origin, all approved products, services or inputs, covered by the decree respecting organic reserved designation, certified by a body that meets the conditions stipulated in Section 2, but whose labels contain information referring to their "organic" status of the product available on the market do not fulfill CARTV requirements may only be marketed in Québec if their names appear on the *Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption*.

Registration of a product in the *Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption* may be obtained by contacting the CARTV, which will apply the current procedure.

To be included on the *Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption*, the applicant company must provide the CARTV and the certification body with a corrective plan and agree to comply with it.

This product can only be sold in Québec.

### 4.3 The labelling of every product listed on the *Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption* must be compliant before the stipulated expiration date. **In the event of revocation of accreditation**

- 4.3.1 All companies based in Québec that manufacture products that have been certified by a certification body whose accreditation has been revoked must agree to submit an application to another CARTV-accredited certification body in order to obtain certification for their products, within a maximum period of three months. Those holding certificates affected by this measure shall, upon request, provide the CARTV with a letter of intent showing that certification for their products is to be transferred, along with a copy of

their new certification documents once delivered to them by the accredited certification body.

- 4.3.2 Except for the products that led to the revocation of a certification body's accreditation, Québec organic products certified by this certification body shall be automatically placed on the Register of Certified Products Granted Temporary Exemption for a six-month period. Any Québec retailers, distributors and processors still possessing these products shall remove them from inventory within 12 months of the date the notification was sent to the retailers, distributors and processors and to the accredited certification bodies. After this date, residual stock with the "organic" designation may no longer be sold.

## 5 Exceptions

### 5.1 Products that are not subject to certification

- Processed products containing less than 70% organic ingredients are not subject to certification. For this category of product, the use of the term "organic" or any other derivative term is prohibited everywhere except in the list of ingredients written on the product's label. However, in order to be labelled "organic," these ingredients must be certified organic.
- Prepared and cooked dishes presented in the form of meals offered directly to consumers in ready-to-serve portions (food service establishments, caterers, grocery stores with salad bars, etc.) and sold with the claim that they are organic are not subject to certification.

### 5.2 Companies that are exempt from the requirement to obtain an organic compliance certificate

- a. Companies that sell certified agricultural and food products bearing the "organic" designation are exempt from the requirement to obtain an organic compliance certificate:
  - i. If, at the site where these products are located, and before they are sold, they do not carry out any operations considered to be production or preparation and do not compromise the packaging integrity of these products during a repackaging operation.
  - ii. If, at the sites where these products are sold, they only carry out minor operations to these products (cutting into portions, slicing, cutting into pieces), at the request of the client and in their presence, such that they do not alter their integrity or strip these products of the original label used to clearly identify their certification.
  - iii. For certified organic whole loaves of bread whose cooking is completed onsite by said companies; they only use unit packages containing all necessary information pertaining to the certification that identifies the certified product that has been provided to them in exact quantities by a supplier that holds an organic compliance certificate for such products. Companies exempted from obtaining an organic compliance certificate cannot add any additional information pertaining to the certification and must clearly record the purchase and sale of certified products registered at the store's checkouts.

- iv. For certified cheeses received in whole wheels whose label affixed to the wheel by a manufacturer that holds the certification contains all the necessary information pertaining to the certification that identifies the certified product; they only cut portions along the portion lines printed on the original label and do not add any information pertaining to organic certification on the crate label for selling the product in self-service.

However, it is recommended that these companies comply with a code of good practice, especially when they concurrently sell similar products that do not bear organic labels.

- b. Companies that carry out activities having to do with food services or catering and home-based cooks' services are also exempt from the requirement to have their products certified for the dishes mentioned in Section 5.1. However, the establishments must use organic ingredients at all times and be able to demonstrate this at any time to persons authorized by the CARTV to carry out their verification.

Establishments that prepare and market eligible products exempt from certification may nevertheless be subject to an inspection by a CARTV supervisory agent, in order to ensure that the claims used are truthful.