

Additional Q&A related to accreditation and certification under the U.S.- Canada Determination of Equivalence

Q: I am an NOP ACA, residing in Canada, and all of my NOP clients are in Canada. Do I need to maintain my direct accreditation with the NOP?

A: No. As of June 30, 2009, if you are on the list of certifying bodies (CBs) provided to the NOP by the CFIA, NOP will no longer provide accreditation to Canadian CBs who do not certify to the NOP outside of Canada.

Q: I am an NOP ACA residing in Canada, but I have clients that I certify to the NOP in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Do I need to maintain my direct accreditation with the NOP?

A: Yes. You must maintain your accreditation with the NOP in order to certify operations in the United States and Mexico; (and other countries outside of Canada); the CFIA will not take responsibility for your certification activities outside of Canada for products being shipped to the U.S.

Q: I am an NOP ACA based in a South American country. May I continue to certify operations producing organic products to the NOP standards for direct shipment to Canada?

A: Yes. USDA-foreign ACAs may continue to certify operations producing products to the NOP regulations with the expectation that those products will be eligible for sale in Canada under the US-Canadian equivalence arrangement.

Q: I am a Canadian CB, and certifying operations in Canada to the NOP. I have been recognized by a Canadian accrediting body to do this certification work. Will this recognition continue after June 30, 2009?

A: No. The agreements will no longer be necessary since all organic production in Canada will be supervised by the Canadian authorities.

Q: I am an NOP ACA in a European country that certifies operations to the NOP standards under a recognition agreement with USDA-AMS. Will operations I certify be eligible for direct shipment to Canada under the equivalence agreement?

A: No. Your government must apply directly to CFIA for recognition in order for you to be recognized to certify operations to be eligible to export products to Canada. Only ACAs that are directly accredited by USDA may certify operations to NOP standards for shipment to Canada under the equivalence agreement.

Q: I am a domestic (U.S.-domiciled) ACA, but I have several clients outside the U.S. that are certified to the NOP standards. Are those operations eligible to label and ship products to Canada?

A: Yes, if the products meet all NOP regulations and conditions for shipment to Canada (produced without the use of Chilean nitrate).