



260 SW Madison Ave. Ste 106 | Corvallis, OR 97333 | [www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org) | PH 503.378.0690 | FX 541.753.4924 | [organic@tilth.org](mailto:organic@tilth.org)

08 December 2010

## **Important Update Message Regarding Trade With Canada.**

This message contains **Important Information** for **ALL OTCO CLIENTS**.

In November the National Organic Program (NOP) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced updates to the US Canada Equivalency Agreement. Links to the Notice is pasted below. There were two critical points made by both Programs:

1) ALL PRODUCTS crossing the Canadian border MUST be accompanied by documentation containing the following statement;

“Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement”.

2) ALL PRODUCTS (not just Raw-Fresh Produce as in the past) must be in compliance with the agreements.

- ALL NOP CROP PRODUCTS going INTO CANADA must be produced without the use of Sodium Nitrate (a.k.a. Chilean Nitrate) and must not be produced by Hydroponic or Aeroponic methods.
- ALL NOP LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS going INTO CANADA must be produced in accordance with the livestock stocking rates set out in the Canadian Organic Regulations.
- ALL CFIA LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS coming FROM CANADA must be produced without the use of antibiotics.

### **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU**

**ALL PRODUCERS**; if you ship or know that your products are exported either directly or as ingredients, make sure that there is documentation that accompanies each shipment that includes the statement in #1 above.

Documentation can include a Certificate, Transaction Certificate, a statement on the Bill of lading or Purchase order, a letter or other similar documentation.

Since there is no formal export documentation process in place you may not know if your products are going into Canada, however, as organic clients inside and outside of Canada are audited and this documentation is not on file, notice will be given to the certifier of that product and we will notify the client.

Note; although allowed for NOP organic with restrictions, we strongly recommend that all NOP organic producers eliminate the use of Chilean Nitrate from their Production System and Supply Chain. This material is not allowed in any other organic standard in the world and often impedes trade since verification all the way back to each farm can be a difficult task.

**ALL PRODUCERS**; There are questions on your Organic System Plan (OSP) specific to the US-Canada Equivalency Agreement.

Crop producers: Make sure your fertility materials do not contain Sodium Nitrate and that if you do use Sodium Nitrate, that the crops on which they are used are accurately documented. The Inspector will verify them and we will list all products that comply with the US Canada Equivalency Arrangement on your certificate.

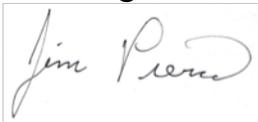
Livestock producers: Make sure that the sections addressing Facility Maps and Numbers of Animals are answered accurately and thoroughly, AND, that any livestock or livestock products that you want evaluated for compliance to the US Canada Equivalency Arrangement are listed. We will use this information to verify compliance on case by case requests from Processors and Handlers but at this time will only list US-Canada Equivalent Products on your certificate that are requested by you.

Processors and Handlers: There is a section in your OSP to list products for evaluation for compliance to the US-Canada Equivalency Agreement. You will need to verify your entire supply chain for every ingredient that is used in products that cross the Canadian border. We will only list US-Canada Equivalent Products on your certificate that are requested and in compliance.

How we can help: Please contact Jim Pierce, Global Program Manager for any questions, clarifications or further information. I look forward to hearing from you.

NOP Notice; <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5087406&acct=nopgeninfo>

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Pierce". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Jim Pierce  
Global Certification Program Manager  
503-779-9063 (cell)  
503-378-0809 (fax)  
jim-pierce (skype)  
jim@tilth.org  
www.tilth.org