




Canada Organic Labeling and Regulations Guide

- All labels must be Reviewed and approved by Oregon Tilth.
- Oregon Tilth will review and approve only the organic components of labels. Compliance to the full Canada FDA and Provincial Labeling requirements are the responsibility of the client.
- This Guidance and these citations apply only to products within the scope of COR; The OPR covers food and drink intended for human consumption and food intended to feed livestock, including agricultural crops used for those purposes, and also the cultivation of plants.
- When not in compliance with NOP requirements (labeled for Canada only), containers & shipping documents must be labeled “For Export Only” (NOP 205.307(c))

Label Category	COR Requirements	Citations
“100% Organic”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% claim is not an official category in the OPR, so it is not permitted. These products must be labeled “Organic”. Similar claims such as “Contains 100% Organic X”, although truthful, are also prohibited 	COR Labeling FAQ COR Directive 22.09.11
“Organic”, “Organically Grown” etc.: 95- 100% Organic Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be labeled “Organic”, This is the only Front Label “Organic” Claim allowed under COR. • For multi-ingredient products, organic ingredients must be identified as organic in the ingredient listing. • An organic ingredient percentage statement (such as “98% organic ingredients”) in addition to the term “organic” may be used. The “X% Organic Ingredient” statement must be all the same color, size, font, and style and must be rounded down to the nearest whole number. • Use of the COR and/or the NOP Logo is optional. 	24(1) 25(b) COR Directive 22.09.11
“Contains X% Organic Ingredients” 70%-95% Organic Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word "organic" may only appear on the PDP in the format of a % statement such as "X% organic ingredients" "Contains X% organic ingredients" "Made with X% organic ingredients". • The NOP Statement “Made With Organic X” is not permitted in Canada. • The “Contains X% Organic Ingredient” statement must be all the same color, size, font, and style and must be rounded down to the nearest whole number. • For multi-ingredient products, organic ingredients must be identified as organic in the ingredient listing. • The reference to organic and the percentage statement must appear in the same color and identical size and style of lettering as the rest of the ingredient panel. • Claims indicating “X% organic ingredients” where X is anywhere from 95-100% are permitted. However, the claim "organic" is encouraged as all products with 95% and over organic content may use this claim. • Use of the COR and/or NOP Logo is not allowed. 	24(2)



<p>Less than 70% Organic Ingredients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic ingredients may only be identified as organic in ingredient list. Neither certification nor verification by a certifying body is required. However, claim must be true and documented. Use of the COR and/or NOP Logo is not allowed. 	<p>24(3)</p>
<p>Other COR Labeling Requirements</p>	<p>Details</p>	<p>Citations</p>
<p>Certifier Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All product labels that make any Organic claim must identify Oregon Tilth as the certifier with the statement “certified organic by Oregon Tilth” or similar. This statement can be placed anywhere on the label. This is the only place where the term “Certified Organic” can be used. 	<p>25(a)</p>
<p>Prohibited Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Organic Made With Organic Certified Organic 	
<p>Bi-Lingual Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail labels (any package which may be sold directly to consumers) must be in both French and English. OTCO will review this only for label sections with organic requirements (e.g. product name, organic claims, ingredient panel, COB statement, etc.). The bi-lingual organic status of the product must appear once on the PDP however it is unnecessary to include bi-lingual statements where used multiple times. 	<p>21</p>
<p>Non-retail labels; bags, sacks, boxes, totes, pallet stickers etc. that make ANY Organic claim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COR Labeling regulations do not distinguish between retail and non-retail packaging. Except; Non-retail shipping containers are exempt from Bi lingual requirements. For multi-ingredient organic and “Made with X% organic ingredients” products, an ingredient listing is required and organic ingredients must be identified as organic. The Certifier Statement must also be present. Wholesale Cases and Non-retail Containers (Cases containing products compliantly labeled for retail) are exempt 	<p>21 (B.01.012(11))</p>
<p>Organic Seal/Logo COR Organic Logo or “Agricultural Product Legend”:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the COR Logo is optional for organic (95%-100% organic) products. It is not allowed for less than 95% organic products. According to the terms of the COR-US Equivalency Arrangement either or both the NOP and COR Logo are permitted. The COR Organic Seal/Logo can be requested from OTCO. “The logo is displayed in either black with a white background (as illustrated), in black with a transparent background or in color over any colored background as long as the original logo colors are not distorted. If displayed in color, the background is white or transparent, the outer and inner borders are green (Pantone no. 368), the maple leaf is red (Pantone no. 186) and the lettering is black.” All products imported into Canada using the COR Seal must include the phrase “Imported” or “Imported From (country of origin)”, or “Product of (listed country of origin)” in close vicinity to the seal. If used more than once, the “Product of” or “Imported” phrase is only required to be in close proximity to one seal/logo. 	



- Products Packaged and Labeled in Canada where no processing steps that modify the nature of the product are performed in Canada must also include the phrase “Imported” or “Imported From (country of origin)”
- Parties wishing to use the logo, for any use other than product labeling (i.e., in retail marketing/advertising for informational purposes), must apply for a license to do so. Requests for an application form may be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca



Citations;

Canada Organic Products Regulation:

PART 3; LABEL; LANGUAGES

21. Any claim or statement referred to in sections 24 and 25 shall appear on the label of an organic product in English and in French or in one of those languages if, in accordance with subsection B.01.012(3), (7) or (11)* of the *Food and Drug Regulations*, the information that is required by those Regulations to be shown on the label of the food may be shown in that language only.

LOGO

22. The logo set out in Schedule 2 is prescribed as an agricultural product legend.

USE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT LEGEND

23. (1) No person shall affix the logo set out in Schedule 2 to a product other than an organic product.

(2) Despite subsection (1), no person shall affix the logo set out in Schedule 2 to a multi-ingredient product whose organic content is less than 95%.

LABELLING AND ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

24. (1) No person shall affix a label to a product, or make an advertisement for a product, that contains the words “organic”, “organically grown”, “organically raised”, “organically produced” — or similar words, including abbreviations of, symbols for and phonetic renderings of those words — unless the product is

(a) an organic product, other than an organic product that is a multi-ingredient product; or

(b) a multi-ingredient product that is an organic product and that contains at least 95% organic contents.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a multi-ingredient product that is an organic product but contains less than 95% organic contents may be labelled or advertised with the words “organic ingredients” if those words

(a) are immediately preceded with the percentage, rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the contents that are organic; and

(b) are of the same size and prominence as the preceding words, numbers, signs or symbols that indicate the applicable percentage.

(3) Despite subsection (1), a list of ingredients on a label affixed to a multi-ingredient product that is not an organic product may indicate which of the ingredients are organic.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

25. No person shall affix a label containing the words referred to in subsection 24(1) or (2) to an organic product unless the label also contains

(a) the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic;

(b) in the case of a multi-ingredient product, the organic contents identified as organic in its list of ingredients; and

(c) in the case of an imported product for which the agricultural product legend is used on the label, the statement “Product of” immediately preceding the name of the country of origin or the statement “Imported” in close proximity to the legend.

***B.01.012 (3)(7)(11) (article 21)**

“test market food” means a food that, prior to the date of the notice of intention respecting that food referred to in subsection (5), was not sold in Canada in that form and that differs substantially from any other food sold in Canada with respect to its composition, function, state or packaging form and includes a food referred to in section B.01.054. (*produit alimentaire d’essai*)

(3) Subject to subsections (4) to (6), subsection (2) does not apply to a local food or test market food if

(a) it is sold in a local government unit in which one of the official languages is the mother tongue of less than 10 per cent of the total number of



persons residing in the local government unit; and

(b) the information required by these Regulations to be shown on the label of a food is shown in the official language that is the mother tongue of at least 10 per cent of the total number of persons residing in the local government unit.

(7) Subsection (2) does not apply to a specialty food if the information required by these Regulations to be shown on the label thereon is shown in one of the official languages.

(11) Subsection (2) does not apply to the label of a shipping container destined to a commercial or industrial enterprise or institution, if

(a) the shipping container and its contents are not resold as a one unit prepackaged product to a consumer at the retail level; and

(b) all information required by these Regulations to be shown on a label of a food is shown in one of the official languages.

USDA National Organic Products Regulation § 205.307; Labeling of nonretail containers used for only shipping or storage of raw or processed agricultural products labeled as “100 percent organic,” “organic,” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

(a) Nonretail containers used only to ship or store raw or processed agricultural product labeled as containing organic ingredients may display the following terms or marks:

(1) The name and contact information of the certifying agent which certified the handler which assembled the final product;

(2) Identification of the product as organic;

(3) Special handling instructions needed to maintain the organic integrity of the product;

(4) The USDA seal;

(5) The seal, logo, or other identifying mark of the certifying agent that certified the organic production or handling operation that produced or handled the finished product.

(b) Nonretail containers used to ship or store raw or processed agricultural product labeled as containing organic ingredients must display the production lot number of the product if applicable.

(c) Shipping containers of domestically produced product labeled as organic intended for export to international markets may be labeled in accordance with any shipping container labeling requirements of the foreign country of destination or the container labeling specifications of a foreign contract buyer:

Provided, That, the shipping containers and shipping documents accompanying such organic products are clearly marked “For Export Only” and: *Provided further*, That, proof of such container marking and export must be maintained by the handler in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for exempt and excluded operations under § 205.101.

Excerpts from the Canada Food Inspection Agency [CFIA] Guide to Food Labeling and Advertising Composition, Quality Quantity and Origin Claims section

Canada Food Inspection Agency Composition, Quality, Quantity and Origin Claims

4.8 Organic

The *Organic Products Regulations* (OPR) require mandatory certification, by a CFIA accredited Certification Body, to the Canadian Organic Standards (Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards: General Principles and Management Standards and the Permitted Substances Lists) for agricultural products represented as organic in import, export and inter-provincial trade, or that bear the federal organic agricultural product legend (or logo). Imported organic products may also meet the requirements of the *Organic Products Regulations* by being certified to a standard deemed to be equivalent under an equivalency determination agreement with a foreign country by a Certification Body accredited by that foreign country [Part 2, Part 4, OPR]. The Canada Organic Regime is the Government of Canada’s response to requests by the organic sector and consumers to develop a regulated system for organic agricultural products. The *Organic Products Regulations* are designed to protect consumers against false and misleading organic claims and govern the use of the new organic logo.

4.8.1 Use of the Logo

The CFIA regulates the use of the logo below (Figure 1). The use of the organic logo will only be permitted on products that have an organic content that is



greater than 95% and have been certified according to Canadian requirements for organic products. The use of the organic logo is voluntary [22, 23, OPR]. Imported products must meet the requirements of the Canada Organic Regime. Should imported products bear the logo, the statement "Product of", immediately preceding the name of the country of origin, or the statement "Imported", must appear in close proximity to the logo or the designations, and these statements must appear on the label in both French and English [21, 25(c) OPR].

Figure 1. The logo is displayed in either black with a white background, in black with a transparent background or in colour. If displayed in colour, the background is white or transparent, the outer and inner borders are green (Pantone no. 368), the maple leaf is red (Pantone no. 186) and the lettering is black [22, 23, OPR].

4.8.2 Organic Claims

Only products with organic content that is greater than or equal to 95% may be labelled or advertised as "organic" or bear the organic logo. Labels or advertisements bearing claims such as "organically grown", "organically raised, "organically produced", or similar words, including abbreviations of, symbols for and phonetic renderings of those words, must meet the requirements to make an "organic" claim. For multi-ingredient products, the organic contents must be identified as organic in the list of ingredients.

- Multi-ingredient products containing between 70-95% organic content may use the declaration "contains x% organic ingredients" on the label or in advertising, specifying the percentage of organic ingredients. These products may not use the organic logo nor the claim "organic". If the declaration "contains x% organic ingredients" is used, the words "organic ingredients" must be of the same size and prominence as the preceding words, numbers, signs or symbols that indicate the applicable percentage. The organic contents must be identified as organic in the list of ingredients [24(2), 25(b), OPR].
- Multi-ingredient products containing less than 70% organic content may identify ingredients in the list of ingredients as organic. These products may not use the organic logo nor the claims "organic" or "contains x% organic ingredients" [24(3), OPR].
- When used, the above organic claims or statements must appear on the label in both French and English. [21, OPR].

4.8.3 Certification

Certification is required for products making an organic claim. This includes products labelled as "organic", that bear the organic logo, or that declare "contains x% organic ingredients". To be certified, operators must develop an organic production system based on the Canadian Organic Standards and have their products certified by a certification body accredited under the Canada Organic Regime [Part 2, OPR].

The label of an organic product subject to the *Organic Products Regulations* must bear the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic [25(a), OPR].

For more information please refer to the [Canada Organic Office](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml) at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>.

Resources	
Canada Labeling Guidelines	http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeli/guide/tab2e.shtml
Canada Food and Drug Act Regulations	http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/legislation/acts-lois/act-loi_reg-eng.php
COR Labeling FAQ's	http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/labelling-and-general-information/questions-and-answers/eng/1328081798738/1328081871795
COR Labeling Directive 22.09.11	http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/certification-and-verification/guidance-documents/directive-10-05/eng/1327873462610/1327873537276