

Crop Production

This is a summary of the Canadian Organic Standards.
For additional information please refer to
CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 available here :
<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/pgng-gpms-eng.html>

Prerequisite (5.1)

- Unauthorized substances (includes GMO crops) shall not have been used for at least 36 months before the harvest of any organic crop.
- Complete transition of the fields

Initial registration (5.1)

- The application for certification must be filed **15 months** and standards must be met for at least 12 months, before the date on which the product is expected to be marketed . (see Annex 1 of the COR)

Transition (5.1.4)

- The enterprise can be converted one unit at a time, Parallel production is limite.
- For authorized parallel production, you have to maintain verifiable, **accurate records of both non-organic and organic products** on production, storage, transportation, processing and marketing. Mandatory inspections before and after harvest.

Buffer zones (5.2)

- When unintended contact with prohibited substances is possible, distinct buffer zones or other features sufficient to reasonably prevent contamination are required.
- Buffer zones shall be at least **8 m wide**.
- Attenuation strategies must be in place to protect crops from GMO contamination
- **Crops grown in buffer zones shall be considered non-organically grown products whether they are used on the farm or not.**

Seeds and Planting Stock (5.3)

- **Organic seeds.**
- With sufficient proof of non availability, you can use non treated non GMO seeds.
- Seeds treated with unauthorized products or GMO seeds are **forbidden**

Fertility (5.4)

- Must be maintained or increase
- Using crop rotations as varied as possible and include plough-down, legumes, catch crops or deeprooting plants;
- Using compliant inputs

Manure (5.5)

- You should use organic manure
- When not available (proof required) you can use conventional manure provided :
- **The non-organic operation is not a fully caged system where livestock are not able to turn 360°;**
- **Livestock are not permanently kept in the dark;**
- The source of manure, type of livestock, evaluation of these criterias and quantity shall be recorded.

Manure Management (5.5.2)

- The **non-composted** manure shall be :
- Incorporated into the soil at least **90 days** before the harvesting of crops for **human consumption** that **do not come into contact with soil,**
- Incorporated into the soil at least **120 days** before the harvesting of crops having an **edible part that is directly in contact with the surface of the soil** or with soil particles.