



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

GUIDE TO LABELING PRODUCTS SOLD AS ORGANIC IN CANADA

All organic food products sold in Canada must meet the labeling requirements of the Canadian Organic Regime (COR) standards. This guide details the requirements of the COR standards.

All labels must be approved by CCOF prior to printing.

Label Type/ Feature	Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Requirements
"100% Organic"	<p>According to verbal statements made by Canadian officials the organic claim "100% Organic" may be prohibited for use in Canada. Products containing 100% organic ingredients may be labeled as "organic".</p> <p>A percentage statement in addition to an "organic" claim such as "contains 100% organic ingredients" is truthful and as such may potentially be allowed in Canada. However, CCOF has received indications from Canadian officials that this is discouraged to avoid consumer confusion.</p>
"Organic"	<p>Products labeled "Organic", "organically grown" etc. must contain at least 95% organic ingredients.</p> <p>An organic ingredient percentage statement (such as "98% organic ingredients") in addition to the term "organic" may be used. The ingredient statement must be all the same color, size, font, and style.</p>
<95% organic	<p>Labels for products that consist of less than 95% certified organic may only include the statement "X% organic ingredients" or markedly similar phrasing to indicate the organic status of the product. The term "organic" may not be used.</p> <p>The phrase "Made With Organic (specified ingredients or food groups)" is not allowed.</p>
"Certified Organic"	<p>The term "Certified Organic" on the principal display panel may not be used (except for identification of certifier, described below).</p>
Identification of Certifier	<p>Retail product labels must identify CCOF as the certifier with the statement "certified organic by CCOF" or a similar. This statement can be placed anywhere on the label.</p>
Identification of Responsible Party	<p>Final processor must be identified if label owner is not certified.¹</p>
Wholesale Containers/ Produce Boxes/ non-retail containers²	<p>It is strongly advised to identify CCOF on bulk containers, produce boxes and other non-retail containers.</p> <p>Packaging shall bear the following information, without prejudice to any other indications required by law³:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the name and address of the person or organization responsible for the production, preparation or distribution of the product the name of the product the organic status of the product information that ensures traceability (e.g. lot number)
Wine Labels	<p>Wines produced to US NOP standards using Sulfur Dioxide may be labeled "organic" under COR labeling requirements. Master cases or other markings for these products should include the notation "for export only" to meet US NOP requirements for products labeled for other markets.</p> <p>Wines may only utilize the COR seal when they are composed of 95% or more organic ingredients.</p>

¹ COR QMS 12.1.1


² EEC 889/2008 Article 31 and EEC 834/2007 Article 23

³ COR CGSB 8.4.2



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Label Type/ Feature	Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Requirements
GMO-free Labels	Statements that an organic food products contains no GMO ingredients are prohibited unless the fact is proven by independent tests. ⁴
COR Seal 	<p>Optional. The COR seal may be used by CCOF operations on products certified to COR standards or verified as compliant with the COR/NOP Export Arrangement. The seal can found at www.ccof.org/canada.php and must be used in the specific format and colors as defined by the COR regulations:</p> <p>“The logo is displayed in either black with a white background (as illustrated), in black with a transparent background or in color. 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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
USDA NOP Seal	Optional. Products certified to either COR or the NOP may use the NOP logo as allowed under NOP standards.
Private Labels and Brands not owned by CCOF clients.	<p>When packaging products for a private label owner who is not certified by CCOF CS or another COR accredited certifier, the CCOF client must be identified on the label.</p> <p>A list of all private label brands must be submitted to CCOF as part of the certification process and be available for inspection.⁵</p> <p>Clients certified by CCOF CS to COR standards may package private label products or receive private label certification directly. Certified private labelers are not required to identify the co-packer on the label as long as appropriate inspections verify the use of compliant packaging, COR certified co-packers, and complete record keeping/traceability⁶.</p>
Registration of Labels⁷	<p>Certain food labels must be registered by the CFIA Formulation and Label Registration Unit. These include labels originating from: Federally registered Canadian meat, poultry and processed fruit and vegetable establishments; Foreign meat, poultry and processed fruit and vegetable establishments.</p> <p>Label registration requests are to be submitted using form CFIA 1472 accompanied by the appropriate number of labels and recipes. This form is available on the CFIA website: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/for/mpppe.shtml</p> <p>Consult the CFIA Fees Notice to determine whether a fee is applicable for your product. Mail completed registration forms to: Clerk, Label Registration Unit, Canada Food Inspection Agency, 1431 Merivale Road, Nepean, ON, K1A 0Y9</p>

⁴ COR QMS 5.2.1

⁵ CAN QMS 12.1.1.5

⁶ CAN QMS 5.1.1

⁷ COR QMS 10.0



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Retail Products Labeling Guide

IF YOUR PRODUCT SOLD IN CANADA IS...

Labeling Requirement:		Not Certified/ Exempt	Between 70- 95% organic	95% or more Organic	
MUST use when applicable:	"Certified Organic By (CCOF name or logo)"	NO	MUST	MUST	
	Ingredients described as organic in ingredient panel*	MAY	MUST	MUST	
	Bilingual	MUST	MUST	MUST	
MAY use when applicable:	USDA Seal	NO	NO	MAY	
	Certifier's Seal	NO	MAY	MAY	
	COR Seal	NO	NO	MAY	
	If using the COR Seal, "Imported" , "Imported from (Country)" or "Product of (Country)" near Seal	NO	NO	MUST	
	Front Panel Claims:	"Contains X% Organic Ingredients" or similar phrase**	NO	MAY	MAY
		"Organic" or similar phrase***	NO	NO	MAY
		"100% Organic"	NO	NO	NO

*All processing aids and additives must be listed in the ingredients panel unless analytical testing can demonstrate that the additive is not present in the final product.

**Such as "X% Organic Ingredients." Must be all the same size, font and color. This phrase is not allowed on NOP certified product in the 70-95% organic category. Similarly, "Made with Organic (specific ingredients)" is not allowed on products sold in Canada. Operations wishing to sell products in this labeling category must create different Domestic Sales-only and Export-only labels.

***"Organically Grown", "Organically Produced." Describing the product as "Certified Organic" is prohibited.