



Do you export organic fruit and vegetables to Quebec?

Quebec consumers would like to be sure that produce imported from foreign orchards and gardens is *absolutely organic*.

Labelling of Organic Fruit and Vegetables Quebec Standards

In Quebec, labelling standards specify that:

1. Organic fruit and vegetables, just as conventional fruit and vegetables, must whenever possible be individually labelled.
2. The name of certified operators (grower or handler) must be printed on a sticker affixed to each organic fruit or vegetable.
3. The name of the certifying body that attested the product's organic production mode must also be printed on each sticker.

Your certifying body is familiar with Quebec standards and can assist you in designing your stickers.

The CAAQ is currently campaigning to make operators more aware of Quebec standards covering the labelling of fruit and vegetables. If you as an operator have a product whose labelling does not currently comply with Quebec standards, you will be requested by your certifying body to submit a realistic plan regarding corrections you intend to make on your product's labelling. **In keeping with this campaign and until July 1st, 2007, the CAAQ will temporarily waive the requirement to obtain an exemption for non compliant labels.**

For additional information, please visit the CAAQ website at www.caaq.org or contact your certifier.

Benefits of complying with CAAQ labelling rules

- An informative sticker on a fruit or vegetable tells consumers where the product comes from and that it is truly organic!
- As many producers and handlers now comply with CAAQ labelling rules, when consumers have a choice between a well-identified pear and one with a sticker only mentioning "organic" they will buy the one with the most trustworthy sticker. Will it be your sticker?
- More and more large Canadian food retailers now require that organic fruit and vegetables be labelled according to CAAQ standards, and will even refuse to buy fruit or vegetables when merchants and brokers have not affixed compliant stickers to them.
- Adding the certifying body's name to your sticker will also reinforce your product's authenticity in the United States and in other countries.



The CAAQ was granted its authority by the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) and is responsible for matters pertaining to the monitoring of the organic designation in Quebec.

Policy pertaining to fees applicable to certified products granted temporary derogations

(Compliance procedures and exemptions rules adopted by CAAQ Board of Directors on August 3rd, 2006)

Certified product description	Maximal delay for compliance completion	Registration fees to Register of certified products granted temporary exemption
Prepacked non perishable foods	6 months (including the free of charge month)	According to the nature of the label non-compliance : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label without the certifying body's name : one month free of charge, then 100 CAD per month per product or per product category • Change of certifying body to be made on the label : three months free of charge, then 100 CAD per month per product or product category • Mention of the reserved designation (ex : «organic») not complying with CAAQ labelling standards : three months free of charge, then 100 CAD per month per product or product category
Packaged perishable* or fresh foods** with PLU or net weight sticker	6 months	Free of charge
Fresh* or perishable** foods in bulk, not packed	18 months for any request submitted before December 31st, 2006 12 months for any request submitted after January 1st, 2007 6 months for any request submitted after January 1st, 2008	Free of charge

* Fresh foods: fruit, vegetable, nuts, edible mushroom, delivered fresh to the consumer

** Perishable foods : fresh meat, fish, milk products and eggs



Request for Temporary Exemption of Labeling Requirements

Contact information

Name of person requesting temporary exemption	
Company	
Address of billing	
Phone number	
Fax number	
E-mail	

Information on request for temporary exemption

Product Name	
Product Size	
Trademark (or brand name)	
Product code (Bar code, UPC, or PLU)	
Batch Number if applicable	
Producer or Manufacturer	
Origin of Product	
Certifying Body	
Certification Code	
Detailed Information (supporting the request)	
Requested Deadline	