



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC ACCREDITATION SERVICE

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August 1, 2008

Dear Organic Certifier,

Subject: Future access to the markets of Canada and the European Union for organic products

An important role of certification is to provide confidence and access to markets.

As you may know new regulations coming into force towards the end of 2008 in Canada and changes to those existing in the European Union will affect access for any of your clients exporting to these territories.

The IOAS is concerned that all certification organisations are fully aware of the implications of these changes and act in time to make sure that organic trade is not disrupted. You can obtain further background information on the changes from our web site at www.ioas.org

European Union

Amended rules come into effect from January 1, 2009 and there will be a transition period to allow adaptation. However, based on the latest draft of the new import rules, the date by which first applications for 'equivalent control bodies' must be submitted to the European Commission will be October 2009. Given that accreditation and/or equivalence assessment by the IOAS will take 9-12 months, we urge you now to consider whether your various approvals or accreditations are sufficient to maintain access to markets for your clients. If not, or if you have any questions, contact me at the email address above.

Canada

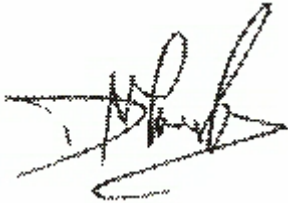
On December 14th, 2008, the Organic Products Regulations will enter into force which will mean that any product labelled as organic entering Canada or crossing inter state borders must be certified by a certification body which has been accredited to the Canadian Regulations by an approved accreditation body. The IOAS has been audited by the Canadian authorities following our application to be an approved accreditation body and we are able to accept applications on a voluntary basis, given that the regulation is not yet in effect. A transition period will again be in place although the duration is not yet decided. Given that, to date, organic product has entered Canada without need for regulation, it is possible that you do not know whether product certified

by you finishes its journey in Canada. We urge you to inform your clients of the coming changes and take informed decisions yourself on what action you need to take to ensure your clients' businesses are not negatively affected.

To keep up to date with developments, please visit our web site news section or you can also subscribe to our free E-News service by contacting me on the email address above.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crucefix', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Crucefix PhD
Assistant Executive Director