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Canada

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

The report identifies export certificates issued by U.S. government issuing authorities to comply with Canadian import standards and regulations or to attest that the product is subject to U.S. government regulation. This report serves as a supplement to the Food and Agricultural Importation Regulation Report (FAIRS) submitted in December 2011, CA 12030. Updates, including some new hyperlinks and up to date contact information, were made to the sections covering Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contacts, organic standards, and the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification.

Post: Ottawa

Table of Contents:

Executive Summary	3
Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix):	3
Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)	4
<i>NAFTA Certificate of Origin</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for Bison.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Meat and Poultry Export Certificate</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Zoosanitary Export Certificate</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Phytosanitary Certificate</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Certificate</i>	<i>5</i>
Section III. Other Export Certification/Accreditation Requirements	6
<i>NOAA Inspection Certificate</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Food and Drug Administration.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Organic</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Organic Equivalency Agreement.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Organic Production Standards</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems</i>	<i>9</i>
Section IV. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)	10
Section V. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements	10
<i>APHIS Export Certification Manual.....</i>	<i>10</i>
Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Selected Export Certificates	11
Appendix II. USDA Organic seal and the Canada Organic Biologique logo	14

Executive Summary

This report identifies export certificates issued by recognized U.S. government authorities to comply with Canadian import standards and regulations or to attest that the product is subject to U.S. government regulation. It is an update to the Food and Agricultural Importation Regulation Report (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report submitted in December 2011 as CA11071. This is not intended as a compendium of Canadian import requirements but rather as a supplement to the Food and Agricultural Importation Regulation Report (FAIRS) submitted in December 2011 as CA 12030. It was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Ottawa, Canada for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is strongly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix):

Product(s)	Name of Certificate	Purpose/Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate	Legal Reference	Electronic Copy Attached
All	NAFTA Certificate of Origin CBP, form 434	To claim preferential tariff treatment	Bureau of Customs and Border Protection	Canada Border Service Agency(CBSA)	NAFTA	YES
Bison (Buffalo)	USDA Beef Export Verification (EV) Program Certificate	To attest to eligibility to export beef to Canada	Agricultural Marketing Service(AMS)	Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	Meat Inspection Regulations	NO
Meat and Poultry Products	FSIS Form 9135-3, Certificate for Export of Meat and Poultry Products to Canada	Product Safety and Wholesomeness	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	CFIA	Meat Inspection Regulations	NO
Live Animals, Honeybees	Zoosanitary Export Certificate VS Form 17-140	Animal Health	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	CFIA	Animal Health Regulations	NO
Plant and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate PPQ Form 577	Plant Health, Freedom from Pests	APHIS	CFIA	Plant Health Regulations	YES
Fresh Apples, Onions, Potatoes	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Certificate FV-300	Grading and Quality	AMS	CFIA	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations	NO
Product(s)	Name of	Purpose/Attestation	Issuing	Authority	Legal	Electronic

	Certificate		Authority	Requiring Certificate	Reference	Copy Attached
Fish and Seafood	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Inspection Certificate	Vessel And Plant Sanitation, Product Inspection, Grading, Safety And Wholesomeness	NOAA	none	Voluntary	NO
Other Foods	U.S. Food Drug Agency (FDA) Certificate of Export	The Food is Regulated by FDA	FDA	Not a requirement of entry	N/A	NO

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

NAFTA Certificate of Origin

This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, Mexico, and the United States to certify that goods qualify for the preferential tariff treatment accorded by NAFTA. The Certificate of Origin must be completed by the exporter. A sample is provided in Appendix I, and is available on the U.S. government export portal:

http://forms.cbp.gov/pdf/CBP_Form_434.pdf

All NAFTA forms require a Harmonized Schedule Tariff classification number to be noted in section 6 of the Certificate. The International Trade Commission of the U.S. Government provides an online reference tool to assist exporters identify their HS number at:

http://hts.usitc.gov/hts_search.asp?search_txt=tariff

USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for Bison

The EV certification provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. bison/buffalo to Canada. The requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (slaughterers, fabricators, or processors) of bison, bison product, and bison offal items that are eligible for export to Canada as listed with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). There is no longer an EV requirement for beef and beef products to Canada. Meat and meat products derived from this species must be produced under an approved Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) EV program. The Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch of AMS has been assigned responsibility for reviewing and approving companies as eligible suppliers of meat and meat products under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Programs. Additional information about the EV program and a list of EV approved establishments can be obtained from the following websites:

Specified Product Requirements for Bison - Canada

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3103514>

Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3105269>

Meat and Poultry Export Certificate

FSIS Form 9135-3, Certificate for Export of Meat and Poultry Products to Canada certifies that U.S. meat and poultry exports to Canada meet the eligibility, safety and wholesomeness requirements laid out in the Canadian Meat Inspection regulations for imports of meat and poultry from the United States. Additional information about the EV program can be obtained at the following web link:

Export Requirements for Canada – Meat and Poultry

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Canada_Requirements/index.asp

The Food Safety and Inspection Service

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1344/~/fsis-form-9135-3

Zoosanitary Export Certificate

The animal health form certifies that certain live animals, like cattle, sheep/goats, aquatic animals and bees meet the animal health import requirements of Canada. To obtain the electronic Animal Health Programs Manual of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of USDA and forms go to:

Manual

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/aphis_general/content/printable_version/brotradc.pdf

APHIS – Export Regulations and Assessments for Canada

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_canada.shtml

Import Requirements of Canada for Honey Bee Queens from the U.S.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_hb_us_pc.pdf

Phytosanitary Certificate

A phytosanitary certificate certifies that the plants or plant products are free from quarantine pests, practically free from other injurious pests, and conform to the current phytosanitary regulations of Canada. For further information see the electronic manuals of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of USDA:

Federally Recognized Phytosanitary Program Manual

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/OC2Sample.pdf

APHIS export certificates are available on the APHIS Export Services Program webpage in two categories; downloadable and viewable:

Plant Export Certificates and Forms

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/export_certificates_forms.shtml

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Certificate

AMS form FV-300 certifies that U.S. fresh apples, onions, or potatoes meet Canadian import standards for grade and quality established in the Canadian Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations. More information on grading, certification and standards please go to:

Grading and Quality Certification

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=FreshProductInspectionService&rightNav1=FreshProductInspectionService&topNav=&leftNav=&page=FreshFVGrading&resultType>

Section III. Other Export Certification/Accreditation Requirements

NOAA Inspection Certificate

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program offers a variety of professional inspection services which ensure compliance with all applicable food regulations. In addition, product quality evaluation, grading and certification services on a product lot basis are provided. Benefits of obtaining a certificate include the ability to apply official marks, such as the U.S. Grade A, Processed Under Federal Inspection (PUFI) and Lot Inspection. Additional information on the Export Certification program can be obtained at the following web link:

NOAA Export Certification

http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html

Food and Drug Administration

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration can issue a Certificate of Export, which is referred to as a Certificate of Free Sale. This certificate will generally indicate that the product is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and that the product is not at that time the subject of any enforcement action by the FDA. Such certificates are neither guarantees nor a certification of the product's safety nor quality. The Certificates of Export are issued at the request of a domestic (U.S.) company by a FDA-CFSAN or by a state governmental authority.

FDA will issue Certificates assuming the product meets the requirements of 801(e) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act as follows:

1. accords to the specifications of the foreign purchaser,
2. is not in conflict with the laws of the country to which it is intended for export,
3. is labeled on the outside of the shipping package that it is intended for export, and
4. the particular shipment is not sold or offered for sale in domestic commerce.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition now has seven offices that process requests for Certificates of Export. For more information contact the FDA Outreach and Information Center at the information listed below:

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Food and Drug Administration
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 1-888-723-3366
Email: industry@fda.gov

For more information about FDA Certificate of Export and the sector contacts, go to the following FDA webpage:

Exports Food Products

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/InternationalActivities/Exports/default.htm>

Export Certificate Contacts

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/InternationalActivities/Exports/ExportCertificates/ucm151486.htm>

Organic

New organic products regulations (OPR) align certification with the National Standard for Organic Agriculture mandatory for all organic products as of June 30, 2009. These regulations fall under the authority of the Canada Agricultural Product Act (CAPA), which regulates the use of the Canada Organic Label. Requirements and regulations for methods of production must comply with the most recent edition of the CAN/CGSB-32.310 Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standard; which can be found here: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/documents/032-0310-2008-eng.pdf>

Under this regime, in order to market a product as organic in Canada, the product needs to be certified by a certification body accredited by a Conformity Verification Body (CVB) recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Canada has updated their Organic Products page to include links to OPR 2009, the Draft Stream of Commerce Enforcement Policy, the list of CVBs that have applied, CFIA, as well as other information and documents relative to the Canadian Organic Regime. The links to CFIA organic products page can be found below:
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

Although Canada has had organic standards since 1999, it was formerly voluntary and not supported by regulation. Now, new mandatory standards are in place.

Organic claims are required to be printed in English and French. A government logo bearing the official program name “Canada Organic Regime” is available to indicate organic compliance to the Canadian regulation. Use of the seal is voluntary. The new version of the regulations also allows CFIA to enter into equivalency agreements with other countries.

The import and sale of organic food products in Canada are governed by the same rules and regulations that apply to non-organic food products. No distinction is made between organic and non-organic food with regard to import requirements. Currently, all Canadian packaging and labeling, grade, and inspection regulations apply equally to organic and non-organic foods.

- Organic Equivalency Agreement

On June 17, 2009, the United States and Canada jointly announced an organics equivalency agreement, the first one of its kind. The equivalency agreement follows a review by both nations of the other's organic certification program and a determination that products meeting the standard in the United States can be sold as organic in Canada, and vice versa.

Under a determination of equivalence, producers and processors that are certified to the National Organic Program (NOP) standards by a U.S. Department of Agriculture accredited certifying agent do not have to become separately certified to the Canada Organic Product Regulation (COPR) standards in order for their products to be represented as organic in Canada. Likewise, Canadian organic products certified to COPR standards may be sold or labeled in the United States as organically produced. Both the USDA Organic seal and the Canada Organic Biologique logo (pictured in Appendix II) may be used on certified products from both countries. The COPR has been in effect since June 30, 2009. The equivalency agreement is expected to lead to greater market opportunities for organic producers in both countries.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provides a listing of certification bodies that have been accredited in Canada or are recognized under the organic trade arrangement with a foreign competent authority under the Organic Products Regulations, 2009. This list can be obtained at:

Certification Bodies Providing Organic Certification Services

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/certification-and-verification/certification-bodies/canada/eng/1327861534754/1327861629954>

For more information about the Canadian government's Organic Product Regulations and about the organic agriculture industry in Canada, go to the following websites:

Organic Products Regulations, 2009:

<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2009/2009-02-14/html/reg1-eng.html>

For more information contact:

Dennis Doermer
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Beverages and Organics Section
1341 Baseline Road Tower 5, Floor 2
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0C5
Telephone: 613-773-0180 Fax: 613-773-0200
Email: dennis.doermer@agr.gc.ca

Rola Yehia
Acting National Manager
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canada Organic Office

1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, Floor 4, Room 142
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0Y9
Telephone: 613-773-5476 Fax: 613-773-5961
Email: rola.yehia@inspection.gc.ca

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada:
<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1183748510661&LANG=3>

- Organic Production Standards

The CFIA has sponsored the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Committee on Organic Agriculture to develop the Organic Production Systems Standards. These documents are available at:

CAN/CGSB- 32.310- 2006 – *General Principles and Standards*
<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/principes-principles-eng.html>

CAN/CGSB -32.311.-e006 - *Permitted Substances Lists*
<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/permises-permitted-eng.html>

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems

The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems is charged with developing principles and guidelines for food import and export certification and inspection systems. Included in the charge is the application of measures by competent authorities to provide assurance that foods comply with essential requirements. Recognition of quality assurance systems through the development of guidelines will help ensure that foods conform to the essential requirements. Food Import and Export Food Inspection and Certification Systems materials adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission are located in Volume 1A of the *Codex Alimentarius, General Requirements*.

The 19th Session of CCFICS was held in Australia from October 17 -21, 2011. The Committee made progress on a key document: Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems. The Committee also addressed concerns:

- Discussion Paper on performance metrics for assessment of national food control systems.
- Agreement on revising the existing *Codex Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations* (CAC/GL 19-1995).
- Consideration of undertaking new work to establish a harmonized questionnaire for importing countries to use when conducting an audit of an exporting country's food control system (or component parts thereof).

The full report of the session can be found at:

Codex Alimentarius Commission, 19th Session on Import and Export Inspection and Certification
www.codexalimentarius.org/input/download/report/768/REP12_FCe.pdf

The 20th Session of CCFICS is tentatively scheduled for February 18 -22, 2013 at a venue to be announced.

Section IV. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

The United States does not require phytosanitary export certification but provides the service, if requested. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is the unit within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that serves to assist exporters in meeting the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries.

Also: see details of certificates in Section I.

Section V. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

APHIS Export Program Manual

This manual serves as an operational reference to be used by inspectors when inspecting and certifying plants and plant products offered for export and when issuing federal plant export certificates. It provides Authorized Certification Officials specific instructions on how to help exporters meet the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries.

For additional information on APHIS Export Certification services and the appropriate APHIS Export Specialist in the respective states go to:

Exporter Program Manual

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/xpm.pdf

Export Certification Specialists

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/ecs/index.shtml

Also: see details of certificates in Section I.

Appendix I. Samples of Selected Export Certificates

Samples of several export certificate forms mentioned in this report are shown in the following pages.

Example: NAFTA Certificate of Origin

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. Customs and Border Protection		OMB No. 1651-0098 Exp. 03-31-2012	
NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN			
19 CFR 181.11, 181.22			
1. EXPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS		2. BLANKET PERIOD	
		FROM	
		TO	
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 3. PRODUCER NAME AND ADDRESS		4. IMPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS	
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:		TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	
5. DESCRIPTION OF GOOD(S)	6. HS TARIFF CLASSIFICATION NUMBER	7. PREFERENCE CRITERION	8. PRODUCER 9. NET COST 10. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
I CERTIFY THAT: - THE INFORMATION ON THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE AND I ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVING SUCH REPRESENTATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM LIABLE FOR ANY FALSE STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL OMISSIONS MADE ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT; - I AGREE TO MAINTAIN AND PRESENT UPON REQUEST, DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS CERTIFICATE, AND TO INFORM, IN WRITING, ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THE CERTIFICATE WAS GIVEN OF ANY CHANGES THAT COULD AFFECT THE ACCURACY OR VALIDITY OF THIS CERTIFICATE; - THE GOODS ORIGINATED IN THE TERRITORY OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES, AND COMPLY WITH THE ORIGIN REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED FOR THOSE GOODS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED IN ARTICLE 411 OR ANNEX 401, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER PRODUCTION OR ANY OTHER OPERATION OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIES OF THE PARTIES; AND - THIS CERTIFICATE CONSISTS OF PAGES, INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS.			
11a. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE		11b. COMPANY	
11c. NAME		11d. TITLE	
11e. DATE	11f. TELEPHONE NUMBERS	(Voice)	(Facsimile)

CBP Form 434 (04/11)

CONSIGNOR		CERTIFICATE NO.	
		US-CA-2004-	
		U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service	
CONSIGNEE/IMPORTER		CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	
ORIGIN COUNTRY U.S.A.	PORT OF LOADING	EXPORT ESTABLISHMENT: (Establishment Number)	
DESTINATION CANADA		SAMPLE	
MEANS OF TRANSPORT			
SHIPPING MARKS	NUMBER/ KIND OF PACKAGES	EST. / PLANT NUMBER ON PRODUCT	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION/ SPECIES LABEL APPROVAL NUMBER NET WEIGHT (Check one and enter net weight) ☐ lb. or ☐ kg.
			SAMPLE
USDA SEAL NUMBER (S) (If Applicable)			
SAMPLE			
REMARKS			
I CERTIFY that the meat or meat food product specified hereon is from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy and that it has been inspected and passed as provided by law and regulations of the Department and is sound and wholesome, and / or I CERTIFY that the poultry and poultry products specified above came from birds that were officially given an antemortem and postmortem inspection and passed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption.			
BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE		NAME OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (Typed)	DATE SIGNED
		SIGNATURE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN	
FSIS FORM 9135-3 (01/01/2004) PREVIOUS EDITIONS OBSOLETE			

**Example: State Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants
and Plant Products for Export**

Montana Department of Agriculture Agricultural Sciences Division Commodity Services Bureau APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT		No Federal Phytosanitary Export Certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353).
1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER AREA CODE AND PHONE NO.	2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (or exporter's agent) AREA CODE AND PHONE NO.	
3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FOREIGN CONSIGNEE 	4. PLACE WHERE ARTICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT AND CERTIFICATION (Port and location) 	
5. APPROX. DATE OF SHIPMENT 	6. PORT OF EXPORT 	
7. DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES TO BE CERTIFIED		
a. QUANTITY AND NAME OF PRODUCE AND BOTANICAL NAME 	b. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES i.e. 1 envelope, 1 box, in bulk, 6 rail car, 500 burlap bags, etc...	
c. DISTINGUISHING MARKS 	d. CERTIFIED ORIGIN – County and State 	
e. TREATMENTS APPLIED TO COMMODITY (Must attach a statement of treatment.) 	f. IMPORT PERMIT NUMBER (Must attach copy of import permit with a certified and signed English translation.) 	
8. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE 	9. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY 	
I certify that the origin (place where grown) of the articles listed is as represented.		
10. SIGNATURE (applicant or exporter's agent)	11. DATE	

EXPORT INSPECTION DATA - (To be filled in by Authorized Certifying Official)		
12. LOCATION OF ARTICLES 	13. VALUE OF ARTICLES ☐ \$1250 OR LESS (exporter must present an invoice) ☐ MORE THAN \$1250	14. AMOUNT CHARGED ☐ \$23 ☐ \$50
15. % OF MATERIALS EXAMINED 	16. % OF MATERIALS INFESTED 	
17. FINDINGS AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN (Use reverse if necessary) 		
18. SIGNATURE	19. DATE AND TIME INSPECTED	

ASD-PMB PC Application Form
(OCT 08)
(Previous editions may not be used)

Appendix II. USDA Organic seal and the Canada Organic Biologique logo

