

No. 8, Guanghua Rd., Nantou City, Nantou County 540, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Lyzette Lamondin
Executive Director
International Programs Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
Ontario, Canada

SUBJECT: **Recognition of Equivalency with Canada**

Dear Ms. Lyzette Lamondin,

The Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) has reviewed the Canadian organic certification program as set out in the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Safe Food For Canadians Act*.

Therefore, pursuant to the *Organic Agriculture Promotion Act* and its accompanying regulations, the AFA has decided that agricultural products of plant origin, and processed foods of plant origin, livestock and livestock products as well as aquaculture products, which are grown or produced in Canada or whose final processing or packaging occurs within Canada and are;

- certified by a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) accredited Certification Body in conformity with the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act*;
- produced and processed under the Canadian organic system, which provides safeguards and guidelines governing the production and processing of such products;
- accompanied by a Certificate for Transactions which is issued by an accredited Certification Body attesting compliance with the term of the Canada Taiwan Organic equivalency recognition letter ;

may be sold, labelled and represented in Taiwan as organic, including by display of the Canadian organic logo for the time period specified in this letter.

This interim recognition will be effective as of May 30th 2020 under the conditions set forth in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this letter and will remain valid for one year or until such time as the CFIA is able to conduct the on-site assessment and finalize the equivalency determination.

AFA and the CFIA understand that reciprocally, Canada will recognise the Taiwan's certified organic products exported and sold in Canada as organic, provided they are accompanied by an organic certificate issued by one of the AFA supervised certification bodies.

The AFA is committed to working with CFIA to carry out the terms of this letter.

Sincerely,



Jong-I Hu
Director General
Agriculture and Food Agency
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan

Appendix 1
Conditions for granting equivalency

The equivalency decision of the AFA is subject to the following

1. Following the CFIA on-site assessment in Taiwan, the AFA and CFIA will review the functioning of this letter and revise it accordingly by proposing any changes, as needed.
2. Canadian certified organic products will be sold, labelled, and represented as organic in Taiwan if they are certified organic under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations by a CFIA accredited certification body in Canada.
3. The CFIA will notify the AFA in a timely manner of any;
 - (a) changes with respect to Canadian competent authority and approved certifying bodies;
 - (b) proposed legislation or rulemaking in Canada that would modify the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Safe Food For Canadians Act*
 - (c) instances of significant non-compliance with Canadian organic certification program. For purposes of this equivalency determination, “significant” means any non-conformity that materially affects the integrity of the organic product subject to this recognition.
4. Following advance notice from the AFA, CFIA will permit the AFA to conduct evaluations (document reviews or on-site visits) to verify how the CFIA approved certification bodies carry out the requirements of Canadian organic certification program. CFIA will cooperate and assist the AFA, to the extent permitted under domestic law, in carrying out such evaluations.
5. The CFIA will submit an annual report to the AFA that will cover the organic activities for the previous year by April 30 of the current year including the following:
 - a. Types and quantities of organic certified organic products exported to the country under the recognition letter (as available through trade codes or electronic certificates);
 - b. Any amendments to the production standards and the regulatory system including the accreditation and certification procedures that have been adopted. Description and explanation of why the organic system remains equivalent;
 - c. A current list and complete contact information of all accreditation bodies and CBs recognized under this recognition (or a link to online resources);
 - d. Overview of the monitoring and supervisory activities carried out by the competent authority including analysis of reports and any other information transmitted by the accreditation bodies and certification bodies;
 - e. Overview of the enforcement actions taken by the competent authority—information on complaints management, follow-up on positive residue testing and cancellation of organic certification;



- f. Any other relevant information such as follow-up on complaints under the recognition, results from working group discussions
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6. Taiwan and Canada will participate in discussions or other means they deem appropriate to resolve any issue raised regarding the application of or the activities covered under the recognition letter e.g. establishing Technical Working Group to address and resolve implementation and other issues with the equivalency recognition.
 7. If the AFA decides to change its criteria for determining equivalency, it will notify Canada in writing in advance.

Appendix 2 Import provisions

The following import provision applies:

1. Canadian organic products covered under APPENDIX 1 and imported into Taiwan will be accompanied by a Certificate for Transactions of Organic Products issued by a CFIA accredited certification body recognized under an existing organic equivalency recognition between Taiwan and Canada that attests to compliance with the terms of this letter.
2. Canadian organic products not regulated by the AFA (e.g. honey) cannot be imported and sold as organic in Taiwan.