



Guide to certification - Canada Organic (COR) Aquaculture

What is COR certification?

Organic aquaculture products are defined in Canadian law as meeting the Canadian organic aquaculture standard, so any fish products sold as organic in Canada must comply with a set of production and processing standards, and must be certified by a registered organic certification body.

Who are Soil Association Certification?

Soil Association Certification is the UK's most experienced organic certification body, certifying organic farms, fish farms, food and drink products, and more.

We are [the only](#) certification body in the United Kingdom to hold the accreditation to certify to the Canadian organic aquaculture standard.

Our friendly team will be pleased to discuss the detailed requirements of your business, and guide you through the certification process.

Timescales

There are set timescales that are important when planning sales of organic aquaculture products to Canada:

Your company must apply for COR certification at least 15 months prior to any COR organic sales (some exceptions apply).

Each farm site must apply for COR certification and undergo the conversion period stipulated in the production rules (e.g. 12 months in some instances).

Your subcontractors will need to be covered by your COR certification or obtain their own.

Your processing, packing and labelling sites will need to become certified.

Observing these timescales should help ensure we can inspect your site(s) and issue your COR certificates prior to COR organic sales.

Organic production rules

The organic production rules are described in the COR organic aquaculture [standards](#).

If you already hold organic certification to the Soil Association standards, the Canadian rules are not dissimilar, even though the certification processes are different (e.g. you'll need to re-apply every year).

I'm ready to apply, what do I need to do now?

To apply you will need to complete our templates (application form, organic plan, certification contract) and send them to us with your suppliers' COR certificates, your product specifications and draft labels and payment.

Once we have approved your application we will arrange an inspection to assess your systems and processes meet the COR aquaculture standards.

Sending product to Canada

A copy of your Canada Organic certificate and trading schedule must physically accompany each shipment of organic products.

The importer in Canada must obtain a Safe Food for Canadians "Importing Food" licence for the relevant commodity, and this must be entered in the Integrated Import Declaration before receiving your product.

Aquaculture Standards Interpretation Committee

The Canadian Organic Seafood Association (COSA) has an Aquaculture Standards Interpretation Committee to respond to stakeholder queries regarding the COR Aquaculture standards. Query responses become binding interpretations adopted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the organic aquaculture sector. Previous queries and answers can be found here: [Aquaculture Standards Interpretation Committee](#)