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Mme Lyzette Lamondin  
Acting Executive Director  
Food Import Export and Consumer Protection  
Directorate  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Road Tower 2, Floor 6, Room 350  
Ottawa (Ontario)  
K1A 0Y9

Responsible official: Priska Dittrich  
Bern, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Amendment of Recognition of Equivalency with Canada

Dear Madam Director,

The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) has examined the Canadian request for recognition of the Canadian Organic System on the basis of Article 23 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming and the Labelling of Organically Produced Products and Foodstuffs (910.18).

Based on that review, FOAG has determined that agricultural products and foodstuffs, including wine, which are produced and/or processed in Canada. And which are

- a. Certified in conformity with Canada's *Organic Products Regulations*, 2009 as in effect on October 1, 2016; and
- b. accompanied by a certificate of inspection for the import of products from organic production (Organic Farming Ordinance 910.181, Annex 9) completed by a CFIA-accredited certification body.

are deemed equivalent to those products that have been produced and processed in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming and the Labelling of Organically Produced Products and Foodstuffs (910.18) and the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) (910.181) (hereinafter "Swiss organic ordinances"). These products may be sold, labelled and represented in Switzerland as organic, including by display of the Canadian organic logo.

This recognition will be effective as of October 1, 2016, under the conditions set forth in Appendix 1.

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) has amended Annex 4 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) (910.181) accordingly.

Switzerland is also pleased to acknowledge Canada's recognition of the Swiss organic ordinances in its letter of today.

FOAG and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) are committed to working with CFIA as described in this cover letter and its associated appendices and in Canada's letter of today, 19 September, 2016 and its associated appendix.

Sincerely,

Federal Office for Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Aebi', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Adrian Aebi  
Assistant Director

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1: Conditions of granting equivalency

## **Appendix 1**

### **Conditions for granting equivalency**

The recognition of the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) is subject to the following conditions:

1. The CFIA will notify the FOAG in a timely manner of any instances of the following:
  - a. Changes with respect to the accreditation status of any CFIA-accredited certification bodies;
  - b. All proposed and final legislation and rulemaking that would modify any element of the Canada Organic Regime; and
  - c. Instances of significant non-compliances with Canada's organic certification program. For the purposes of this equivalency determination, "significant" means any non-conformity that materially affects the integrity of the organic product that is likely to be exported to Switzerland.
2. Following advance notice from the FOAG, the CFIA will permit FOAG officials to conduct evaluations (document reviews or on-site peer reviews) to verify how the Canadian authorities and CFIA accredited Certification bodies carry out Canada's organic certification program. The CFIA cooperates and assists the FOAG, to the extent permitted, in carrying out such evaluations.
3. Canada is expected to submit an annual report to the FOAG that will cover the organic activities for the previous year by March 31 of the current year.
4. Canada participates in discussions or other means deemed appropriate to resolve any issue raised regarding the application of or the activities covered by this recognition.