



Implementation of the Canada Organic Regime

Canada Organic Office



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d'inspection des aliments

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Canadian organic sector overview

- Fastest growing food sector: 15 - 20% growth in industry per year
- 3618 certified organic farms (2005)
- 531,919 hectares organic crop production / 47,955 hectares in transition
- approximately 800 processors / handlers / traders
- 2 provincially regulated systems (Qc and BC)
- 4 accreditation agencies / 28 certification bodies (approx.)
- 2003 Approximate Canadian organic retail value: over \$1 billion
- 2003 export value: \$63.1 million (estimate)
- Approximately 80% of Canada's organic products, sold at retail, are imported.



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Background to regulations

- 1990** – Federal government and industry begin discussions
- 1995** – AAFC drafts regulations: *No consensus, regulations not implemented.*
- 1999** – Standards Council of Canada approves Canadian General Standards Board national voluntary standard for organic agriculture
- 2002** - AAFC sponsors revision to standard under auspices of Canadian General Standards Board (completed 2006)
- 2003** – Consultation and writing of the Regulatory Proposal Assessment
- 2004** – Formation of **Organic Production System Task Force**
- 2006** – ***Organic Products Regulations*** published in *Canada Gazette, Part II*
- 2007** – *Organic Products Regulations are an ongoing living document and are subject to review and amendments under a rigorous regulatory process.*



Canada Organic Regime

Principles:

- Build on existing system (third-party service delivery for accreditation and certification)
- Revised Canadian standards for organic agriculture form the basis for the regulatory regime

Purpose/Mission:

- Effective **consumer protection** against deceptive and misleading labelling practices
- Continued **market access**
- **Development** of domestic market
- **Level playing field** for domestic and imported products



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What will the regulations do?

The regulations will require mandatory certification to the National Organic Standard (*Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards: General Principles and Management Standards CAN/CGSB 32.310 and Permitted Substances Lists CAN/CGSB 32.311*) for agricultural products represented as organic in interprovincial and international trade, or that bear the federal organic agricultural product legend (logo).



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Scope of the Organic Products Regulations

Products included in the scope of the regulations must:

1. Meet the definition of “agricultural product” in the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*:
 - (a) *an animal, a plant or an animal or plant product,*
 - (b) *a product, including any food or drink, wholly or partly derived from an animal or a plant, or*
 - (c) *a product prescribed for the purposes of this Act*
2. Have a national production standard* developed through a stakeholder-consensus process
3. Be a product that the CFIA already regulates.

*necessary for certification, monitoring and enforcement activities



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What happens to products not covered by the regulations?

During transition period:

- status quo

Following transition period:

- marketing restrictions on the term organic will apply



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System structure

CFIA is competent authority → agreements with accreditation bodies, and accredits certification bodies based on their recommendation.

Building upon the pre-regulated system, CFIA will continue to liaise and cooperate with provincial government authorities

Authorized Accreditation bodies → assess certification bodies



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System structure

Certification bodies → inspect for on-farm/facility compliance with organic standard requirements

Operators → apply and maintain procedures in standards

CFIA → enforces regulations

- System audits to verify ABs and CBs operating as intended
- Complaint response
- Investigation and enforcement activities



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Organic Products Regulations – New Authorities

The Regulations define specific requirements for organic products, namely:

- Organic products with organic content of greater than 95% may be labelled with the Canada Organic Logo and/or the designations “Canada Organic” and “Biologique Canada.”
- Multi-ingredient products with 70%-95% organic content may have the declaration: “% organic products.”
- Multi-ingredient products with less than 70% organic content: organic claims may be identified in the product’s ingredient list.

Products falling in the first two categories must be certified organic by a CFIA accredited Certification Body.

Also, the name of the Certification Body must appear on the label.



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Canada Organic Logo

When you see this logo, it will mean that the product has been certified according to Canadian requirements for organic products.

Imported products bearing this logo must also bear the words “imported” or “product of.”

Use of the logo is voluntary

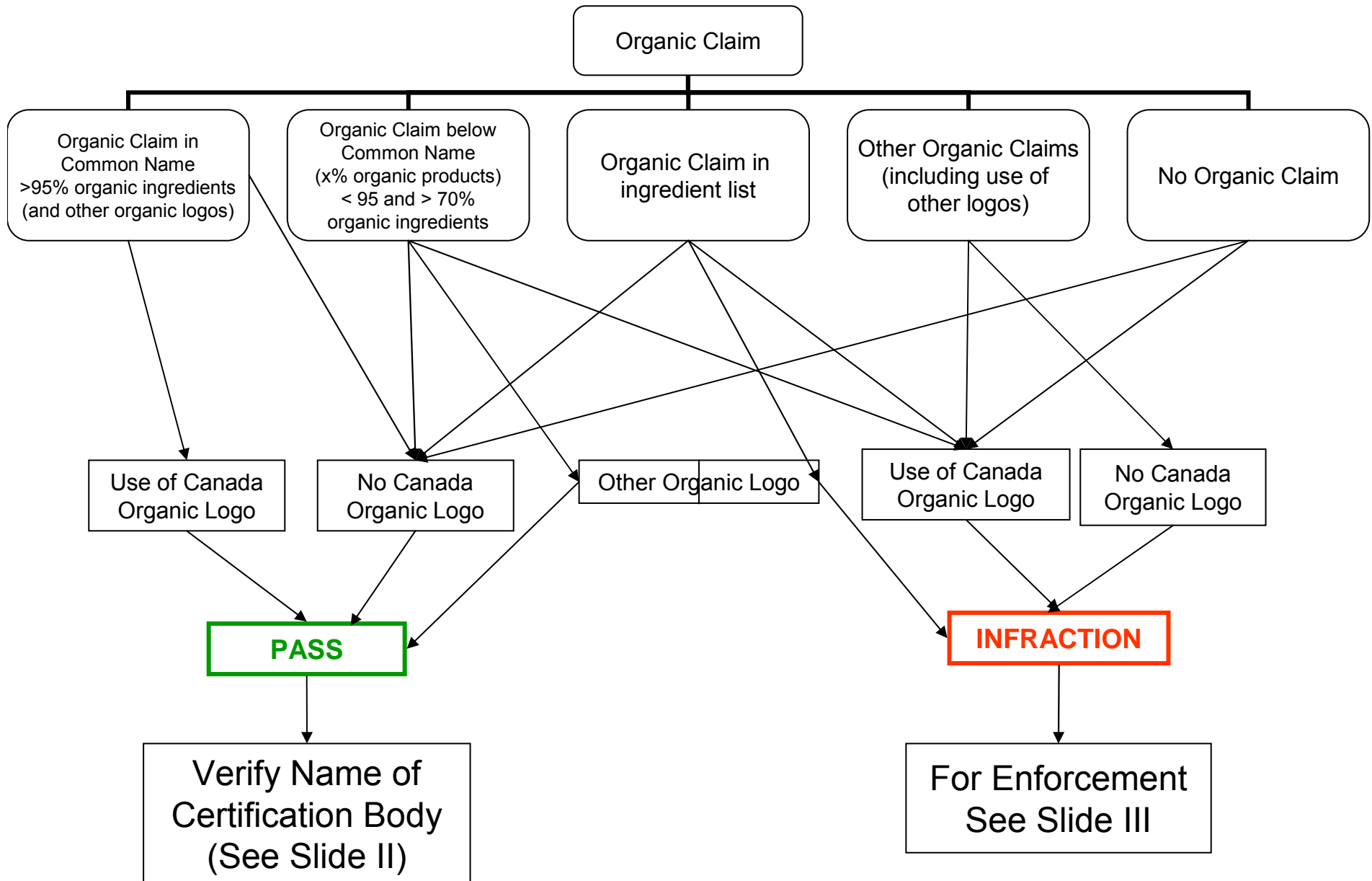


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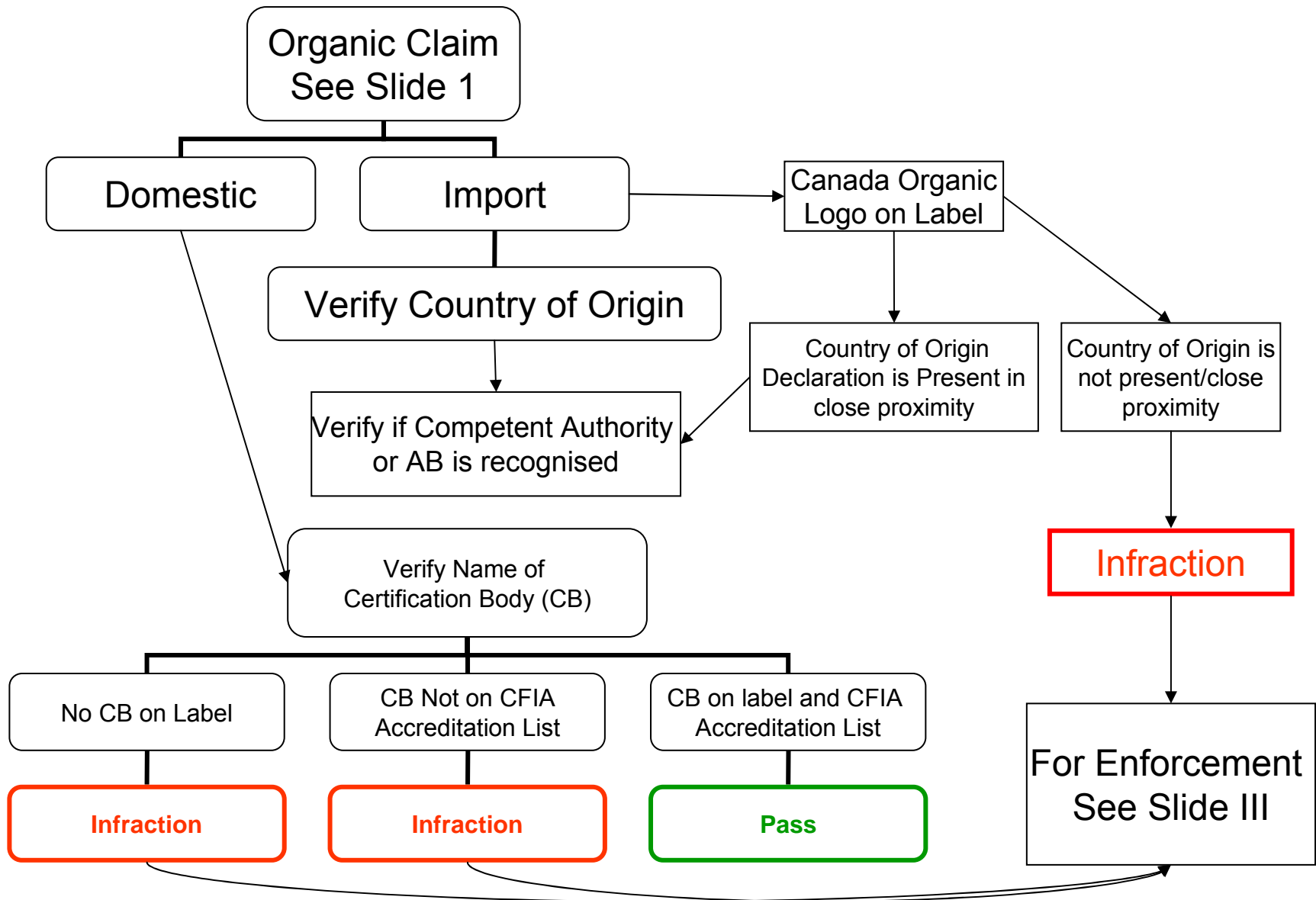
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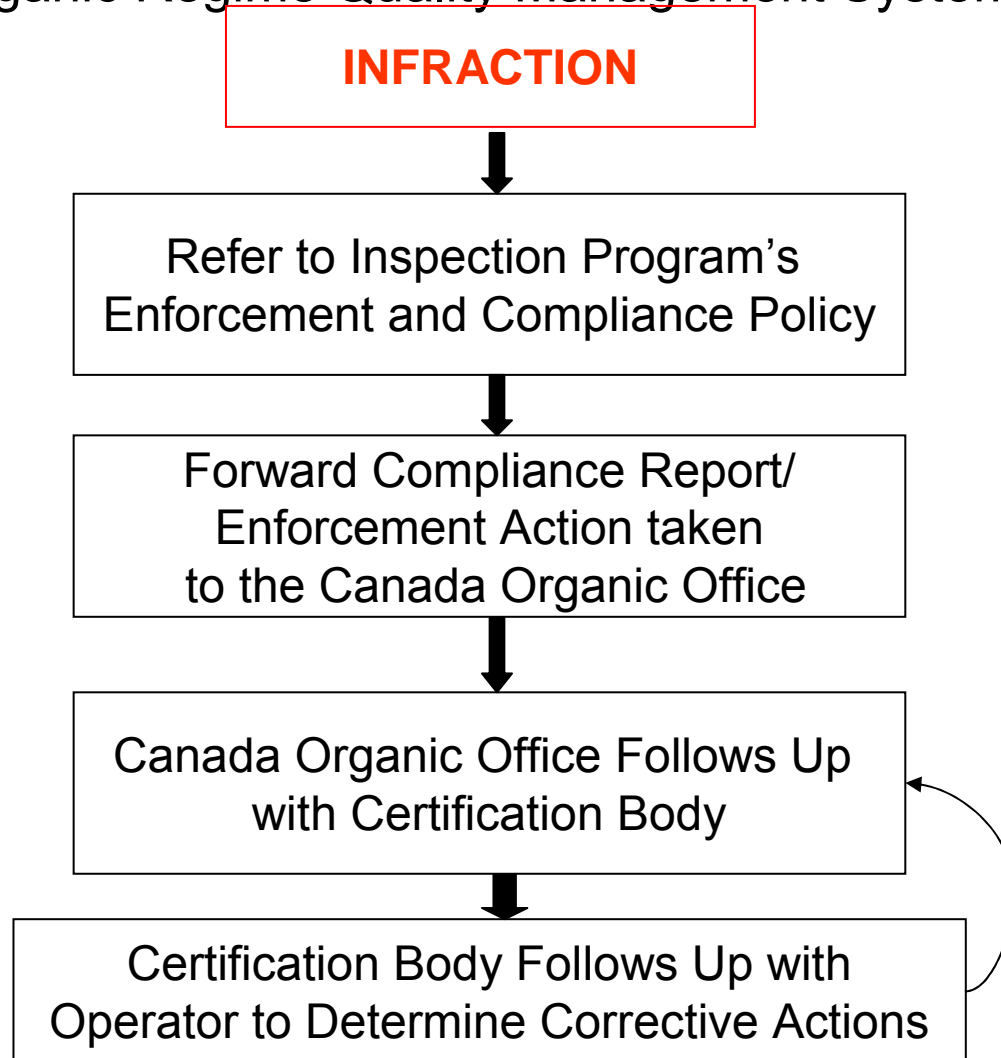
Label Review – Decision Tree



Label Review – Decision Tree



Label Review – Decision Tree
Enforcement and Compliance (See Section 1.10 of the Canada
Organic Regime Quality Management System Manual).



New Authorities – cont'd.

The Regulations provide the CFIA with the authority to suspend or cancel an organisation's certification and/or accreditation.

The Regulations also provide the CFIA the authority to enter into agreements with foreign competent authorities and accreditation bodies.



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Enforcement

Programs will continue to follow their current enforcement policies.

Infractions discovered by field staff are to be forwarded to the Canada Organic Office so that they may follow-up with the operator's Certification Body.



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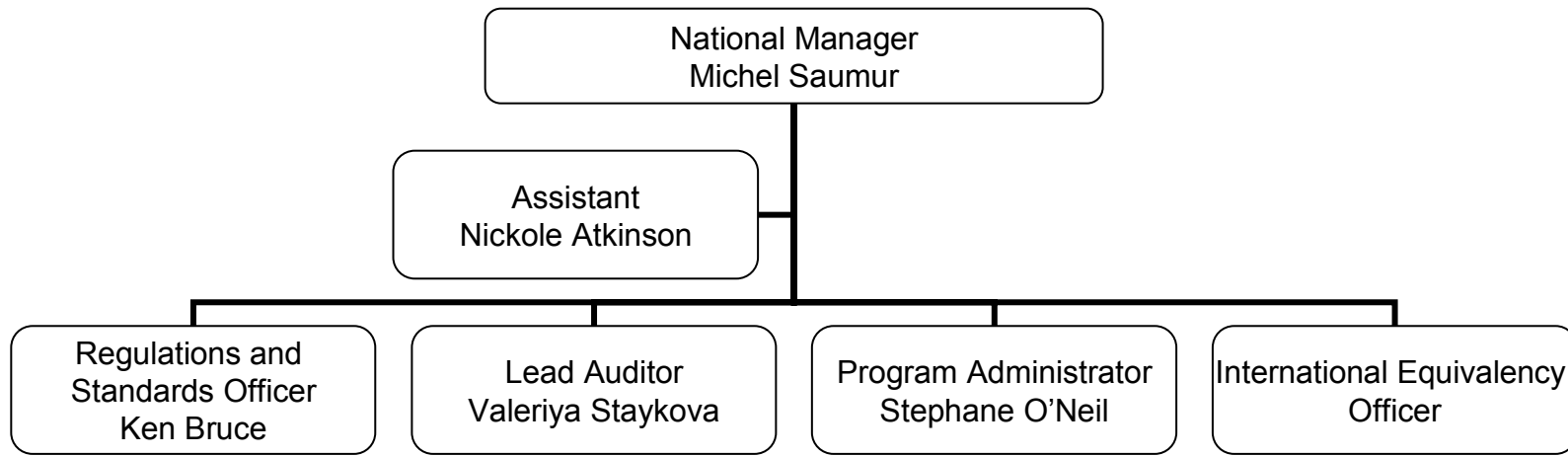
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Implementation – Next Steps for Government

- Website, policy manual, training, communication
- Integrate organic requirements into CFIA's 14 commodity inspection programs for monitoring and enforcement activities (see Organic Label Review – Decision Tree)
- Evaluation of accreditation bodies and development of agreements
- Negotiation for recognition with key trading partners – EU and US



Canada Organic Office



Where to get them

Organic Products Regulations:

CFIA Website: www.inspection.gc.ca

Canada Gazette Website: www.canadagazette.gc.ca

Organic Production Systems Standards:

Canadian General Standards Board Website:

www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb

Contact:

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