

## Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting August 25, 2008

Present: Michel Saumur (COO), Stephane O'Neill (COO), Emily MacKenzie (AAFC), Dag Falck Nature's Path Foods), Arnold Taylor (OFC), Betsy Hui (CHFA), Fannie Jang (Kraft Foods), Keith Mussar (i/e Canada), Ted Zettel (OFC), Julie Belzile (Filière biologique), John Henning (McGill University), Angela Clark, Nicole Boudreau (OFC), Nathalie Doré (AAFC), Stephanie Wells (OFC & OTA), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Paddy Doherty (OFC)

1. COO staff: Ken Bruce is on sick leave, perhaps for a long time.
2. Regulation: The amended regulation may be delivered to COO in final draft today, and consultations will take place next week. The 2-hour consultation sessions are open to all who want to participate. Michel will send information on consultation venues to OFC for distribution. Note: The regulation will give CFIA the authority to demand compliance to the Canada Organic Standard for interprovincial and international trade.
3. Standard: Julie reports that the standards work is ahead of schedule, the revisions should be ready for the deadline. Funding is still being sought for the fourth ballot, a critical part of the current revisions. Ted reports the OFC task force on long-term sustainability is studying the options for ongoing standards maintenance and will present at the Organic Value Chain Roundtable in late September. The proposal will be for an integrated government-industry system to update the standards within the CGSB framework. Funding options still to be identified.
4. International:  
EU: The PSL Working Group is looking at the differences between the Canada and EU standards. Support on standards gaps is being provided by the Organic Federation of Canada (OFC). OFC will hire a standards technical agent by September 1. Noted that EU standards are changing in January, Canada's in December. Michel advises we begin work based on the old standards. Julie notes the EU has told us what their revisions will be.  
US: Awaiting response from COO's last revision.  
Japan, Costa Rica, Mexico: Waiting for responses.
5. Accreditation: CFIA Legal Services will allow the COO to sign the contracts with ABs in advance of the December 14, 2008, implementation date. At that time, the CBs listed with the authorized ABs may be posted.
6. Stream of commerce: Michel defines this as the grace period strategy for CFIA inspection and enforcement staff. The COO will work on the wording proposed by industry, will return revisions to OFC industry task force this week. When both sides are happy with it, the Stream of Commerce Policy will be published in QMS Manual and on COO web site.
9. Next meeting: September 8, 2008, at 1 PM EDT  
Michel will speak at CHFA Toronto conference Expo East September 12 at 9:30.