

## Notes from COO Liaison Committee meeting 2008/06/23

Present: Paddy Doherty (OFC), Michel Saumur (COO), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Betsy Hui (CHFA), Jennifer Wasko (OPAM), Julie Powell (Sobeys), Dag Falck (Nature's Path), Keith Mussar (IE Canada), Dawn Robinson (Kraft), Nicole Boudreau (OFC), Gunta Vitins (SunOpta), Stephanie Wells (OFC), Anne Wilkie (CHFA), Rochelle Eisen (COABC), Julie Belzile (OFC), Ken Bruce (COO), Elizabeth Corrigan (COO), Matt Holmes (OTA)

1. Michel is leaving on holidays for a month (most of July) – Ken and Valeriya will look after things.
2. Following an evaluation of the risks involved with implementing or not implementing the OPR on December 14 2008, the Minister of Agriculture has directed the CFIA to implement the OPR on December 14 2008.
3. The CFIA has developed a rough timeline for consultation for the OPR amendments. By end of July blue-stamping, approval within agency by September 25, pre-publication by October 8<sup>th</sup> – comment period from October 8 until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following the third ballot the department of justice will review the standard and the SCC and CGSB will work in parallel to complete the standard ratification – these activities will all proceed together (justice, CGSB, SCC) in an attempt to speed things up. COO consultation with the organic sector (about the regulatory amendments) will take place in late July and August – this needs to be approved by CFIA management
4. Canada organic logo – the logo was assessed against the new product of Canada guidelines announced by the Prime Minister – the CFIA Management team told COO to remove the word 'Canada' from the logo – also to remove the phrase 'Canada Organic' from the OPR – the COO to invite Carla to the next liaison committee meeting to provide some clarity about the new product of Canada guidelines
5. Canada standard strategy to complete the standard before December 14 2008 - July 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline for the third ballot – please vote as soon as possible – target date for committee draft by July 4<sup>th</sup> (for Working Groups) – 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot comments will go to the work list in order to speed up the ratification process – see number 3 above about the speeded-up ratification process. The standard may be published by November some time.
6. Transition committee meeting tomorrow - what information is needed for everyone?
7. COO will submit the differences between US and Canada standard to the CGSB technical committee for review – following that review, the COO will determine the next course of action. The COO met with EU – very short list of differences between the Canada Standard and the EU – COO will submit this list to the technical committee for review – meeting US again in the fall
8. Next meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm EDT, Dial-in number: 866-646-2080, Passcode: 2217165