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Canada

Date: October 31, 2023

Mr. Wonsup YOON  
Director General  
Agri-Food Innovation Policy Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA)  
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

**Subject: Recognition of Equivalency with the Republic of Korea**

Dear Mr. YOON,

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has reviewed the system of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as “Korea”) for organic production, labeling and control based on Korea’s *Act on the Promotion of Environmentally–Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and the Management of and Support for Organic Foods* (hereinafter referred to as “Korean Organic Food Act”).

Pursuant to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*, the CFIA has determined that processed organic products whose final processing and handling occurs within Korea and are:

- (i) certified by a National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (hereinafter referred to as “NAQS”) accredited Certification Body in conformity with the organic regulations applicable in Korea; and
- (ii) accompanied by a valid organic certificate and an export certificate which are issued by a NAQS accredited Certification Body

are deemed equivalent to those products that have been produced and handled in accordance with Part 13 of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR); and may be sold, labeled and represented in Canada as organic, including display of the Canada Organic Logo as well as the Korea Organic Logo. This recognition will be effective as of November 1, 2023 under the

requirements set forth in Appendix 1.

The requirements outlined in Appendix 2 apply to the imported organic products.

The CFIA is pleased to acknowledge the MAFRA's recognition of the Canadian organic certification system in its letter of October 31, 2023.

The CFIA, which administers Part 13 of the SFCR, is committed to working with the MAFRA to carry out the terms of this Exchange of Letters.

Sincerely,

Dr. Parthi Muthukumarasamy  
Executive Director  
International Programs Directorate  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)



## Appendix 1

### Requirements for Granting Equivalency

The CFIA and MAFRA understand that the equivalency decision of the CFIA is subject to the followings:

1. The MAFRA will notify the CFIA in a timely manner of any;
  - (i) changes with respect to Korea's competent authority and NAQS-accredited Certification bodies;
  - (ii) proposed legislation or rulemaking in Korea that may affect this Appendix;
  - (iii) instances of significant non-compliance with Korea's organic certification program.

For purposes of this equivalency determination, "significant" means any non-conformity that materially affects the integrity of the organic product subject to this recognition;

2. Following advance notice from the CFIA, the NAQS will permit the CFIA to conduct periodic evaluations (document reviews or on-site visits) to verify how NAQS accredited certification bodies carry out the requirements of Korea's organic certification program.  
The NAQS will cooperate and assist the CFIA, to the extent permitted under its national law, in carrying out such evaluations.
3. The NAQS will submit an annual report to the CFIA that will cover the organic activities for the previous year within the current year.
4. The CFIA and the NAQS will participate in discussions or other means they deem appropriate to resolve any issue raised regarding the application of or the activities covered under this Exchange of Letters such as establishing a Technical Working Group to address and resolve implementation and other issues with the equivalency recognition.

5. If the CFIA decides to change its criteria for determining equivalency, it will notify the MAFRA and the NAQS in writing in advance.
  
6. The CFIA and NAQS will ensure that, by August 2028, the Technical Working Group will review the functioning of this Exchange of Letters with a view to proposing any changes, as needed.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Import Requirements**

The CFIA and the MAFRA understand that the following import requirements apply to this Exchange of Letters:

- (i) A Korean organic “processed food” as defined in the Korean Food Code, will contain at least 95 percent organic content, and will have its final processing and handling within Korea;
- (ii) The organic product will be certified organic under the Korean Organic Food Act and its regulations by a NAQS accredited Certification Body.
- (iii) A Korean organic product covered under this recognition letter and imported into Canada will need to be accompanied by a valid organic certificate issued by a NAQS accredited Certification body and an export organic certificate issued by a NAQS accredited certification body that attests to compliance with the terms of this Exchange of Letters.
- (iv) A Korean organic product covered under this recognition letter for import into Canada will be labeled according to the CFIA organic labeling requirements, and may display the Canada Organic Logo, or the Korean Organic Logo, or both.