



1400 Merivale Road
Tower 2, 5th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Tel: (613) 773-5442
Fax: (613) 773-5961

Mr. Adrian Aebi
Vice-Director
Markets Added Value Directorate
Federal Office for Agriculture
3003 Bern, Switzerland

DATE: September 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Amendment of **Recognition of Equivalency with Switzerland, 2016**

Dear Mr. Aebi:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reviewed the Switzerland organic certification program as set out in the *Swiss Organic Farming Ordinances*.

Pursuant to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, the CFIA has determined that based on that review agricultural products, including wine, which are produced and /or processed in Switzerland and which are:

- certified in conformity with the Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance by a control body approved in accordance with the Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance; and
- accompanied by the certificate which is issued by a Swiss control body

are deemed equivalent to those products that have been produced and /or processed in accordance with the *Canadian Organic Products Regulations, 2009* (OPR 2009); and may be sold, labelled and represented in Canada as organic, including by display of the Canadian organic logo as well as any organic seal recognized by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). This recognition will be effective as of October 1, 2016 under the conditions set forth in Appendix 1.

This letter/recognition replaces the CFIA's previous letter/recognition dated 21 June 2011 on the same subject-matter. The CFIA, which administers the OPR, 2009 is committed to working with the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) to carry out what is envisioned in this new letter.

Sincerely,

Lyzette Lamondin
Acting Executive Director
Food Import Export and Consumer Protection Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1: Conditions of granting equivalency

Appendix 1

Conditions for granting equivalency

The recognition of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) notifies the CFIA in a timely manner of any:
 - (a) changes with respect to Swiss competent authorities and accredited control bodies;
 - (b) all proposed legislation or rule making that would modify any element of the Swiss Organic System; and
 - (c) instances of significant non-compliance with Swiss's organic certification program. For 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 Canada.
2. Following advance notice from the CFIA, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) allows the CFIA to conduct evaluations (document reviews or on-site peer reviews) to verify how the Switzerland accredited control authorities and control bodies carry out the requirements of Swiss's organic certification program. FOAG cooperates and assists the CFIA, to the extent permitted under domestic law, in carrying out such evaluations.
3. FOAG is expected to submit an annual report to the CFIA that will cover the organic activities for the previous year by March 31 of the current year.
4. FOAG participates in discussions or other means deemed appropriate to resolve any issue raised regarding the application of or the activities covered by this recognition.