

FOURTH SECTION
EXECUTIVE POWER

**SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FISHING AND FOOD**

This is an amended AGREEMENT which includes additions and abrogation of several provisions of the previous agreement published on October 29, 2013, that sets forth the guidelines for the organic operation of agriculture and livestock activities.

In the margin, a seal with the National Emblem reads: United Mexican States – AGRICULTURE – Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

VÍCTOR MANUEL VILLALOBOS ARÁMBULA, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, under Article 35, section IV of the Organic Law of the Federal Public Administration; 4 of Federal Law of Administrative Procedures; 1 sections I, II, III, IV, VI and VII, 2, 6 sections VI, IX, X Parts A, B and C, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35 and 36 of the Organic Products Law; 6, 14, 15, 17, 27, 29, 39, 40, 41, 44, 47 and 48 of the Regulation to the Organic Products Law; 1st, 2nd, letter “D” section VII, 3rd, 5th section XXII and 44 of the Internal Policy to the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on April 25, 2012; 1, 3, 11 part XVIII, 18 sections XIX, XX, XXI and XXII, and 19 sections II, V and IX of the Internal Policy of the National Service of Health, Food Safety and Quality Assurance, as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on July 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS

The Official Journal of the Federation, published on October 29, 2013 includes the “AGREEMENT that sets forth the Guidelines for the organic operation of agriculture and livestock activities,” which establishes the regulation of— and a national control system for—organic, biologic or ecologic operations or production, to facilitate the export of Mexican organic products to international markets, as well as the acknowledgement of an equivalent Regulation to allow the free flow of organic products between countries.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (the Department) has determined that organic operations are a dynamic activity that requires an update, periodically or as necessary—either at the request of the production sector or due to changes in international regulations—in order to allow the free flow of Mexican organic products to other markets.

In order to comply with Articles 6, section X, Parts A, B and C; 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Organic Products Law; 61 and 62 of its regulations, and with the mandatory update under the Provisional Third Article of the “Agreement that sets forth the Guidelines for the organic operation of agriculture and livestock activities,” the Department coordinated the Control System Group for Organic Products of the National Council for Organic Production in 2014 and 2015, in order to review and update the current Regulation, taking into account the Council’s opinion, either at the request of the production sector—which is the case for products with protected designation of origin—or due to changes in related international regulations.

It is necessary to update the different Systems of Organic Agriculture and Livestock Production, especially Agriculture, Livestock and Apiculture, amongst others, which have a defined standard and accessible technology. Also, it is necessary to establish standards for other production systems which lack them, such as the production of Melipona honey and aquaculture. This would contribute to an annual 25-30% growth due to the great climate diversity of Mexico and allow comprehensive development of diverse production systems, while increasing the number of conscious consumers who care for environmental and human health.

During the meetings of the Control System Group for Organic Products of the National Council for Organic Production (including seven work sessions), it was deemed necessary to amend the Agreement published on October 29, 2013 and amended on May 8, 2015 as follows: Title I, Chapter I, Object and Nature was taken into consideration;

Title II, Chapter II, Vegetable and Animal Production, Storage and Transportation, incorporated products with protected designation of origin, the production of Melipona honey in the Insecta class, the standard for the Aquaculture Production, as well as other technical aspects; Chapter III, Processing and Commercialization; Title III, Labelling References and Property Statements, the Participatory Certification; Title V, Product Imports with Equivalent Guarantees; Title VI, List of Substances and Criteria for the Assessment of Substances and Materials for the Organic Operation, included some precise details; and the National List was updated for better guidance to those operators wishing to make an entry into this system.

The Department noted the need for Mexico to have an updated policy consistent with the needs of the sector and market, an equivalent national control system for organic, biologic or ecologic production in order to facilitate the export of Mexican organic products to the European Union, the United States of America and Japan, amongst others, and to seek the acknowledgement of an equivalent regulation to allow the free flow of organic products between countries. For those reasons, I issue the following:

AGREEMENT TO AMEND, ADD AND ABROGATE SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT THAT SETS FORTH THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIC OPERATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES AS PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FEDERATION ON OCTOBER 29, 2013

SOLE. Article 1; 5th, 6th, 14th, 17th and 21st paragraphs of Article 4; sections IX and XV of Article 5; Articles 6, 8 and 11; sections I, II III of Article 12; sections II and IV of Article 17; Article 19; second paragraph of Article 21; Articles 22 and 25; sections I, II, III and last paragraph of Article 35; Article 36; sections II and III of Article 44; Articles 51 and 60; first paragraph and sections II, III, IV and V of Article 70; first paragraph of Article 71; section II of Article 73; sections IV and V of Article 74; Articles 81 and 84; section II of Article 92; sections I and III of Article 98; first paragraph of Article 101; Articles 103 and 106; first paragraph of Article 114; Articles 115 and 116; section V of Article 119; section II of Article 120; Article 124; second paragraph of Article 138; sections I, II, III, IV, V and VI of Article 140; Article 147; first paragraph and section III of Article 149; first paragraph and sections III and VI of Article 150; sections I, III and VIII of Article 151; last paragraph of Article 153; first paragraph of Article 155; Article 162; section I of Article 172; Articles 185 and 197; sections I and II of Article 200; Article 201; table of Article 204; subsections a), b), c) and last paragraph of Article 214; first paragraph of Article 215; Articles 216 and 220; sections II and IV of Article 226; first paragraph of Article 227; section I of Article 228; first paragraph of Article 229; first paragraph and sections I and VII of Article 230; first paragraph of Article 231; Articles 232; 233; 240; sections I, II, III and V, leaving the last one as IV of Article 258; Article 259; the heading of Title VI "List of Substances and Criteria to Assess Substances and Materials for the Organic Operation"; Article 264; the heading of Chapter I, " Assessment Criteria to Create the List of Permitted Products Under Organic Methods" of Title VI; first paragraph of Article 265; first paragraph and sections I, II, III, IV and V of Article 267; first paragraph of Article 268; Articles 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275 and 277; first paragraph, tables 1, 2, subsections 3.1 and 3.6 of table 3, tables 7 and 8 of Annex 1; Annex 2; and formats O-SQ-F01, O-SQ-F-03 y O-SQ-F05 of Annex 3 are hereby **amended**; Article 6.1; last paragraph to Article 51; Chapter II, Subchapter I, a Section X "Certification of Products with Protected Designation of Origin", with an Article 69.1, to Title II; section VI to Article 74; section VI to Article 119; last paragraph to Article 141; Article 148.1; Chapter II, a Subchapter III.2 "Aquaculture Animal Production and Overview" with a Section I "Class: Fish, Crustaceans, Mollusks ", with Articles 157.2, 157.3, 157.4, 157.5, 157.6, 157.7, 157.8, 157.9 and 157.10 to Title II; Articles 221.2, 221.3 and 226.2; Chapter V, a Section IV "Surveillance or Inspection Program, Sampling, Analysis and Loss of the Organic Quality", with Articles 257.2, 257.3, 257.4 and 257.5 to Title IV; sections IX and X and last paragraph to Article 267; and second paragraph to Article 273 are hereby **added**; and last paragraph of Article 99; second paragraph of Article 268; and Article 278 are hereby **abrogated**; all of them from the Agreement that sets forth the Guidelines for the organic operation of agricultural and livestock activities, as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on October 29th, 2013, to read as follows:

**AGREEMENT THROUGH WHICH THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIC OPERATION OF
AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES ARE MADE PUBLIC**

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE AND NATURE

ARTICLE 1. According to the Organic Products Law and Regulation thereof, the objective of this Agreement is to regulate the organic operation of those engaged in agricultural and livestock activities and the procedures for their certification and acknowledgement.

ARTICLE 2. This article shall apply to:

- I. Agricultural and livestock activities where fresh or living products, from plants or animals are produced and their products or byproducts, including plant reproductions materials, seeds, mycelium or spores;
- II. Products from agricultural and livestock activities of processed or transformed;
- III. Feedstuffs or food material for animal production;
- IV. Yeasts for food processing;
- V. The production and marketing of materials, substances, products, consumables and ingredients prior positive assessment of the requirements and procedures to be included in the National list of allowed materials, substances, products, consumables and ingredients with or without restriction in the organic operation, as well as methods to be introduced in the organic operations, and
- VI. National list of prohibited materials, substances, products, consumables, methods and ingredients.

ARTICLE 3. The application, interpretation and surveillance of this Agreement shall correspond to the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA), through the National Service of Animal and Plant Health, Quality and Food Safety (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria, SENASICA), and individual and legal entities who carry out organic operation or certify agricultural and livestock activities like organics, including producers or marketers of materials, substances, products, consumables and ingredients to be used in organic operations shall be obliged to comply with them.

ARTICLE 4. For the purposes of this Agreement, besides those set forth in the Organic Products Law and its Regulations, the following terms shall be understood as follows:

FERTILIZER: Product derived from a process managed in such a way that the microorganisms decompose plant and/or animal material in the most appropriate way for its application to the soil or to the plant, including mineral fertilizers of natural origin excluding Chilean nitrate products composed by plant and/or animal material, animal waste and other organic materials free from prohibited materials according to the national list;

CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITY: Any agricultural and livestock practice conducted using the different technologies, substances and with methods different from those regulated by the Organic Products Law, and its applicable provisions;

PARTICIPATORY ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: Document issued by the organizations of small producers organized or family production which guarantees that the product was produced and/or processed in accordance with the Organic Products Law and its regulatory provisions;

MARKETING: The possession or exhibit of organic products with marketing purposes, the selling or delivery or any other form of introduction in the trade; financial gain;

COMMERCIALIZATION: The exhibition, the delivery, or any other introduction to the market of organic products for financial gain;

COMPOST: A soil fertilizer or conditioner obtained from the biologic, aerobic and thermophilic processing of organic, biodegradable, or composting materials that have an initial carbon/nitrogen (C/N) ratio of 25 to 40 parts carbon to 1-part nitrogen;

CONVERSION: Transition from conventional production to Organic Production during a certain time period in which the provisions related to the organic production shall be applied;

DOCUMENT OF ORGANIC CONTROL OR ITS EQUIVALENT: Document issued by the Secretariat or the approved organic certification body in which the amount of certified organic product in conditions of being placed in the market is stated, to contribute to a reliable exchange relationship between the Organic Operator and the buyer;

DECLARATION OF INGREDIENTS: List of ingredients contained in the product showed on the label with their common and regular names, in a descending order of predominance;

EQUIVALENCE: Description of the different control systems and similar regulations and measures implemented, capable of fulfilling the same objectives and principles that guarantee the same level of compliance;

MANURE: Any excrement or urine from animal production, with or without litter, without transformation;

IDENTIFICATION (LABELING): Identification of an organic product by means of labels, supporting documentation, parting line, among others;

INGREDIENT: Any substance, including food additives, used in the processing or preparation of an organic product and which is present in the final product, even in a modified manner;

ORGANIC INSPECTION: The mechanisms by which the Secretariat, the approved certification body or acknowledged body conduct on-site inspections of the operations of those who apply for an organic certification or a participatory organic certification;

IRRADIATION (IONIZING RADIATION): High-energy emissions from radionucleotides, capable of changing the molecular structure of food, with the purpose of controlling microbiological, pathogenic contaminants, parasites and pests in food;

LAW: Organic Products Law;

NATIONAL LIST: The list of substances, materials, products, inputs, methods and ingredients referred to by their generic name; classified as permitted, restricted or prohibited in the whole production chain, as stated in national regulations and published in the Official Journal of the Federation by the Secretariat.

LOT: The amount of one agricultural and livestock product produced, elaborated or integrated in the same cycle, identified with a specific code;

ECOLOGICAL PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT: it includes the use of biological control agents such as: parasitoid, predator, entomopathogenic, sterile species, antagonist organism, used to control harmful organisms; pathogenic agents such as: microorganism capable of causing diseases to insects; preservation of entomophagous arthropods; physical; mechanical means; use of resistant varieties; consumables included in the national list, among others;

FEEDSTUFFS: Any edible material consumed by an animal for its nutritional value. It can be elaborated with grains or high fiber fodder like hay or dried, silage forage; and it includes any agricultural merchandise, including all plant material consumed by the animal during grazing;

PROCESSING: The activities of cooking, baking, maturing, heating, drying, mixing, milling, beating, separating, extract, slaughter animals, cutting, ferment, distill, gutting, head off, preserve, dehydrate, pre-cooling, cooling and freezing or manufacturing procedures equivalent to the aforementioned; including packaging, re-packaging, canning, bottling, or the containment of food in containers;

ANIMAL PRODUCTION: Animal husbandry, including insects, aquatic species from freshwater, brackish water or seawater;

PLANT PRODUCTION: Those soil plants cultivated, including collection of plant products with human use or consumption purposes, aquatic species produced in fresh, brackish or salt water;

PROPAGATION: Reproduction of plants or vegetables by sexual or asexual means;

TRACEABILITY: The capacity to follow the movement of an organic product through one or several specific stages of its production, transformation and distribution;

REGULATIONS: Regulations of the Organic Products Law;

INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM (Sistema de Control Interno, SCI): For groups of small producers, it is the documented control system of groups of producers and their units of agricultural and livestock Organic Production aimed to ensure that the organization satisfactorily complies with the organic regulations and allows an organic certification body or the Secretariat to assess the operation of the system applied;

SURVEILLANCE: Action conducted by the Secretariat to review and assess the operation of the organic certification bodies, organic operators and the products in order to verify the compliance with the requirements set forth in the Law, its Regulations and this Agreement through the minutes of surveillance;

UNIT OF PRODUCTION OR EXPLOITATION: Plot or set of plots and facilities where animals and/or vegetables and their products or byproducts are produced or handled, clearly identifiable in terms of physical space, documents, organization and administration. Processing or packaging facilities may be part of the unit, provided that these are limited to processing and bottling of the production of the same unit.

ARTICLE 5. The following are general principles of organic production:

- I. To produce food of high nutritional quality;
- II. To interact in a constructive way with natural systems and cycles;
- III. To consider the social and ecological impact of the organic production and processing system;
- IV. To encourage and enhance biological cycles within the agricultural and livestock activity, involving microorganisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals;
- V. To develop a valuable aquatic ecosystem, promoting sustainability;
- VI. To maintain and increase long-term fertility of soils;
- VII. To maintain the genetic diversity of the productive system and its surroundings, including the protection of plant and wildlife habitats;
- VIII. To promote the rational and proper use of water, water resources and all life therein;
- IX. To use, whenever possible, renewable resources in agriculture and livestock farming activities, with a major use of native and/or local resources of vegetables, animals or other species;
- X. To create a balance between animal and plant production;
- XI. To give all livestock, including aquaculture, conditions of life which consider the basic aspects of their innate behavior, adapted to the needs characteristic of each species, which respect the principle of sustainable exploitation;
- XII. To minimize, and as far as possible, prevent all forms of pollution;
- XIII. To progress towards an entire organic production chain, which is both socially just and ecologically responsible;
- XIV. To design and manage the agricultural and livestock operation in accordance with biological processes based on ecologic systems, and
- XV. Organic production shall be bound to the soil, except for those cases where—due to the characteristics of the product or to agro-ecological conditions—this might not be feasible, including but not limited to, the production of epiphytes, germinates of organic seeds for consumption, germinates of organic seeds for the extraction of chlorophyll, some fungi, or for aquaculture production.

The basic principles of organic production shall be observed by all the operators and considered for the development of their organic plans, which purpose is to ensure the organic integrity of the products and to improve in a sustainable manner the social and economic conditions of the rural population dedicated to agricultural and livestock activities of organic production in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Law and its Regulations.

ARTICLE 6. Every product or byproduct of animal and/or vegetable origin said to be organic shall be traceable, for which, they must be identified and registered. Operators shall keep such records for at least five years.

ARTICLE 6 Bis. The sector conducting activities involving organic production may suggest to the Secretariat that it issue guidance, technical handbooks and/or criteria to strengthen the Control System for Organic Products, which shall adhere to the Organic Products Law and Regulation thereof, to this Agreement, and to any other relevant legal provision in order to be assessed by SENASICA. If so, such guidance shall be published on the Secretariat and SENASICA websites.

TITLE II
ORGANIC OPERATION AND ITS PROCESSES
CHAPTER I
CONVERSION IN GENERAL

ARTICLE 7. The party interested in being Organic Operator shall have an Organic Plan from the beginning of the conversion or at the time of applying for certification, which shall be updated on a yearly basis and shall include at least the following aspects:

I. The management background or history, including the consumables used in the agricultural and animal production of the last three years;

II. Description of the activities currently performed in the unit or which continue in the operation: of plant production like fertilization or plant nutrition, pest management; of animal production, animal feed, among others, indicating the activities to be executed in the conversion period;

III. A program of activities including the aspects that should be changed during the conversion process, for example: rotation of crop, manure management, livestock management, fodder production plan, pest and disease management, environmental conditions, soil preservation, management of water, including time limits, and

IV. The tools and machinery used in the organic operation shall be different from the one used in the conventional agricultural and livestock activity and where this is not possible, the tools and machinery used shall be cleaned to prevent contamination before being used in organic operations.

ARTICLE 8. The operations shall be inspected at least once prior to the first organic harvest.

ARTICLE 9. Those animals and/or vegetables, their products or byproducts, which are in conversion phase, cannot be labeled, showed or sold with the reference of Organic or ecological Production and/or the prefix bio, eco, neither use the national organic emblem.

ARTICLE 10. Where the conversion of the productive unit is simultaneous for plants and animals or integrated farms; animals, grazing areas and any plot used for animal feed; the total conversion period shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in this guidelines, as the case may be, for each species and applies to the animals existing in the units, their progeny, grazing areas and plots used for animal feed, crops, collection products, aquaculture and non-wood products, provided that the animals are fed mainly with products from the production unit and the soils have not received the application of prohibited substances for a period of 3 years prior to the organic harvest.

SUB-CHAPTER I

CONVERSION FOR PLANTS AND RELATED LANDS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION, THEIR DURATION

ARTICLE 11. Vegetable production in the process of conversion shall be managed in an organic manner under this agreement, and soils should not receive the application of prohibited substances, during the following periods:

I. In annual crops, the conversion period shall be two years before the harvest;

II. In the case of perennial grasslands and forages, the conversion period shall be two years prior to their exploitation or harvest.

III. In the case of other perennial crops, the conversion period shall be three years.

ARTICLE 12. The conversion period may be acknowledged retroactively whenever:

I. The plots were left fallow and, in the meanwhile, there was no application of prohibited substances or materials under this Agreement, or

II. The plots are for conventional agriculture and it is proven that there was no application of prohibited substances or materials under this Agreement, or

III. Records and applied analysis prove that the plots did not receive prohibited materials and/or substances, nor that they were at risk for contamination by the drift of materials or substances prohibited under this Agreement.

For the retroactive recognition, the information, field history and/or analyses conducted to the soil and/or plants shall be provided, which should be reflected in the Organic Plan.

The aforementioned shall be performed in accordance with the proceeding stated in article 214 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13. In case the product loses its integrity due to the application or treatment with prohibited materials or substances during any phase of its operation, it cannot be sold as organic.

ARTICLE 14. Where operations in conversion process or organic are contaminated or treated with any material or substance not listed in this Agreement, due to activities as the following:

- I. Sanitary campaigns or phytosanitary emergencies in case of pests or exotic diseases or not expected by the authority;
- II. For the development of scientific research by an official institution or authorized by the official entity, or
- III. For the incidental application or drifting due to conventional agricultural and livestock activity, including climate-related disasters.

Even when organic operators had taken all the precautions to prevent contamination, contaminated production cannot be sold as an organic product. The Secretariat shall give notice of such situation by means of an official letter to the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat of the group of Experts of the Council to proceed to set a new period of conversion, observing elements such as, type of production or management unit, time from cultivation to harvest for short-cycle, annual or perennial crops, degradation of sanitary or phytosanitary consumable applied, of which at the end of the conversion period shall be at least an insignificant level of residues in the soil; or in case of perennial crop in the plant, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions issued to that effect. Based on the evaluation, the Secretariat may impose the sanction in terms of article 47 of the Law.

SUB-CHAPTER II

CONVERSION FOR ANIMALS AND RELATED LANDS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION, THEIR DURATION

SECTION I

CONVERSION OF LAND ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL PRODUCTION

ARTICLE 15. In the case of plots for fodder and grain production, as well as grazing areas and any surface used for animal grazing, the conversion periods to be applied shall be those established for plant production.

ARTICLE 16. The conversion period for open air areas and exercise areas in hog and poultry production, should be reduced to six months if the plot(s) in question were not treated during at least one year before with prohibited or different products to those included in tables 1 and 2 of Annex I, or to the provisions set forth in Title VI of this Agreement. This situation shall be set out in the operator records.

ARTICLE 17. In the case of animals, the conversion time shall be in accordance with the following periods:

- I. At least twelve months in the case of bovine and equine animals intended for the production of meat and, in any case during three quarters of their lifetime;
- II. At least six months in the case of pigs and small ruminants such as sheep and goats;
- III. At least six months in the case of animals intended for milk production, like goats, bovine and ovine species;
- IV. At least seven weeks for poultry for meat production introduced before the first twelve days of life;
- V. At least six weeks in the case of poultry intended for egg production.

During the conversion time, animals shall be managed in accordance with these guidelines.

ARTICLE 18. In the case of collection or trapped animals, like animals from cultivation areas or from rest areas or natural vegetation; the zones or areas of collection, like agricultural fields; their habitat shall be free from the application of prohibited substances or materials in accordance with this Agreement during the last three years.

ARTICLE 19. As for the specific case of apiculture production, the production unit shall go through a conversion period of at least one year of organic handling before the first organic honey harvest.

CHAPTER II
PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

SUB-CHAPTER I
PLANT PRODUCTION AND ITS GENERALITIES

SECTION I
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 20. In plant production, operators shall use materials, substances, consumables, methods and ingredients authorized and included in the National List for the organic operation in accordance with ANNEX 1, or which comply with Title VI of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 21. Organic operators shall implement the measures necessary to prevent contamination of their operations with prohibited substances originated outside their operation or by environmental factors.

The units in organic operation shall be appropriately identified. Such identification shall be described in the production-unit record system for traceability purposes.

ARTICLE 22. If a potential risk of contamination with prohibited substances is identified in the organic production unit, a laboratory analysis shall be necessary to determine any residues of substances prohibited in crops, soils or water, as the case may be under Article 257 Quarter. The same shall occur if operations are conducted near a contamination source, which shall be described in the Organic Plan.

SECTION II
SOIL AND WATER PRESERVATION

ARTICLE 23. Any Organic Operator shall be provided with a program of conservation practices and improvement of the soil to prevent their loss and protect it, which shall be set out in the Organic Program and shall be aimed to improve the fertility and the potential of soil use to maintain the organic matter content and the development of plants and in accordance with the production areas.

ARTICLE 24. According to the conditions and environmental factors, as well as the particular aspects of each production unit, erosion of the soil shall be prevented or reduced by using adequate agroecological practices of conservation such as, but not limited to:

- I. Live or dead barriers;
- II. Contour planting;
- III. Cover crops, and
- IV. Conservation tillage.

Furthermore, techniques that proceed in accordance with the agroecological production regions shall be used, which shall adhere to these guidelines.

ARTICLE 25. Organic operators shall not burn vegetation, except that agricultural waste or organic residues can be burned as a specific phytosanitary control measure, if done so without breaching environmental regulations.

ARTICLE 26. In areas where original or native vegetation is constituted by woods or forests, the organic operation shall establish in cultivation areas, diversified systems with two or more plant layers of native species, particularly in perennial crops.

ARTICLE 27. Organic operators shall apply agronomic practices in order to maintain the soil covered with a layer of plants most of the time, in accordance with agroecological conditions.

ARTICLE 28. Animal organic production shall contribute to the balance of plant or forestry production, fulfilling the needs for nutrients of plant species. In this way, these may help to establish and maintain the soil- plants, plants-animals and animals-soil interdependence, the particular aspects of the use of fertilizers and manure are specified in ANNEX 1 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 29. The use of micronutrients included in ANNEX 1 is justified on the grounds of deficiency in the plant or soil and shall adhere to the criteria set out in said annex.

ARTICLE 30. Hydroponics and aeroponics are strictly prohibited, therefore production without soil is not in accordance with organic production, according to the provisions set forth in the Law and its Regulations.

ARTICLE 31. Only the use of fertilizers and plant nutrition inputs, for soil fertility, allowed and included in the national list according to ANNEX 1, or that have been evaluated according to Title VI of this Agreement, is authorized.

ARTICLE 32. The Organic Operator shall set out in the Organic Plan those activities carried out in order to conserve water, among which may be included rational and efficient use, practices to prevent its contamination, the strategies and actions to preserve the resource, prevent its loss or contamination.

ARTICLE 33. The Organic Operator shall pursue the existence or prevalence of local and regional equilibrium on the water resource in its agricultural and livestock practices, making a rational use thereof without affecting third parties or the organisms that depend on it, such as aquatic and soil flora and fauna.

ARTICLE 34. The Organic Operator shall set out in the Organic Plan all the actions performed to prevent contamination of the water used in the activities characteristic of the organic agricultural and livestock production either practical or technical actions applied to eliminate or reduce the deterioration of the quality of the water used, if necessary, in the activities characteristic of organic agricultural and livestock production.

SECTION III

SEEDS OR PROPAGATION MATERIAL

ARTICLE 35. The Organic Operator shall use seeds and/or organic plant material from native or creole, hybrid varieties; those better adapted to the environmental or cultural conditions of each region; and in the absence of their organic type, or the species or variety of interest in the market are not available or not in sufficient amount the following will be accepted:

I. To use seeds or plant material in conversion or resulting from an untreated natural production or treated with a substance included in the National List. Under no circumstances shall the seeds or plant material intended for edible sprouts shall be treated with prohibited substances. In the case of perennial plant materials in the production stage, they shall be handled in an organic manner for no less than one year.

II. To use seeds or plant material treated with substances not included in the National List, as long as the phytosanitary treatment is a compulsory requirement. In such case, actions shall be taken to eliminate or reduce the presence of such substances before sowing or planting. Plants sprouted from such materials shall be organically handled. This exception will cease to have effect when there is sufficient availability of organic seeds or plant material on the market.

III. The Secretariat shall notify the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat—with the previous favorable opinion from the Council—that the use of conventional seeds or plant materials is temporarily permitted for the organic production in extraordinary situations, such as environmental disasters or the risk of extinction of the cultivars of interest, which shall be organically handled for no less than one year. The Secretariat shall notify the organic certifiers about the adopted measures, the relevant crops, and the exception period, according to the applicable legal provisions issued for this effect.

The approved or acknowledged body shall document these exceptions under Article 208 and shall notify the Secretariat, which shall verify their fulfillment under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 36. According to Articles 35 and 36 of the Organic Products Law, imported seeds or plant material shall be treated with methods or treatments complying with the National List (Annex 1) or with substances assessed pursuant to Title VI of this Agreement. In such cases, they shall not come from excluded methods. Otherwise, alternative practices or inputs shall be used at the suggestion of the Council's Group of Experts in order to prevent the introduction of plagues or phytosanitary pathogens and use them in the organic production systems to protect the organic quality of the materials and promote plant health within the national territory.

ARTICLE 37. The use of seeds or plant material from excluded methods or from genetically modified organisms or transgenic or their derivatives is prohibited.

SECTION IV ROTATIONS

ARTICLE 38. Crop rotations, associations and/or mixed crops and intercropping shall be a priority in organic plans, as a strategy to avoid depleting soil nutrients, to help the development of natural resistance to pests and soil diseases.

ARTICLE 39. Planning rotations, associations and/or mixed crops and intercropping shall be aimed to prevent erosion, to keep soil fertility, to reduce nutrients washing out or leaching and the problems caused by pests, diseases and unwanted weeds.

ARTICLE 40. In the case rotation is not possible, diversification of species shall be promoted by means of associations and/or mixed crops and intercropping to improve soil fertility and biodiversity.

ARTICLE 41. The operator shall set out in the Organic Plan, crop rotation, the nature of the species, the presence of weeds, local conditions and the production and consumption needs, among others and for the case of plots used for grazing, rotations shall include legumes, as well as the promotion of agro-silvopastoral systems.

SECTION V FERTILIZATION PROGRAM, SOIL AND PLANT MANAGEMENT AND NUTRITION

ARTICLE 42. Organic plant production shall be aimed to:

I. Develop practices of plant fertilization and nutrition to favor the granular or crumb structure of the soil, by developing beneficial microorganisms and the measures to keep or increase soil fertility and not only to directly provide or apply nutrients to the plant;

II. Encourage and implement tillage and cultivation practices that keep, improve or increase organic matter in the soil, which reinforce soil stability and biodiversity, prevent ground compaction and soil erosion;

III. Manage the crop requirements of nutrients and soil fertility by means of rotations, crop associations, cover crops or the application of plant, animal, microbiological or mineral material;

IV. Apply plant and/or animal material mainly composted to prevent the contribution to water, harvest or soil contamination;

V. Use plant or animal material transformed into compost or not composted, free from prohibited materials, substances and inputs or not included in the National List of permitted substances, and

VI. Other that, in accordance with the Secretariat's opinion are compatible with the principles of organic production.

ARTICLE 43. In the case of composting process, the following shall be considered:

I. Establish a maximum initial proportion in the C/N (Carbon/Nitrogen) ratio between 25:1 and 40:1, of the materials used of animal or plant origin;

II. In composting using a vessel, stack or static ventilated pile system; that it has kept a temperature between 55° C and 77° C minimum during three days turning them, or

III. In the case of composting using a windrow composting system; this was kept at a temperature between 55° C and 77° C for a period of 15 days minimum and at least five turnings were applied.

In biointensive composting, a minimum of turnings is not required.

ARTICLE 44. Organic Operators may only use and/or apply raw manure or not composted in the following cases:

I. When applied in a field with crops not for human consumption;

II. Whenever it is applied to the soil in a period of at least 120 days before harvesting a product whose edible portion shall be in direct contact with the land area or with soil particles, or

III. Whenever it is applied to the soil in a period of at least 90 days before harvesting a product whose edible portion shall not be in direct contact with the land area or with soil particles.

ARTICLE 45. The Organic Operator shall first observe the prior practices for plant fertilization and nutrition, in case these are not sufficient and the use of substances or materials included in Table 1 of ANNEX 1 of the national

list, or which comply with Title VI of this Agreement is necessary, these shall be handled with precaution and shall be considered as supplements; therefore in any case these may replace recycling of materials or nutrients.

SECTION VI

INSECTS, FUNGI, BACTERIAE, VIRUSES AND ARVENSE MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE 46. Native plant species or varieties adapted or resistant to local environments shall be used to reduce the impact of pest and/or diseases attack, besides the appropriate management of soils, rotations and crop associations to help with the development of natural resistance to pests and diseases of crops or the soil.

ARTICLE 47. Organic operators who have in their production unit unwanted weeds shall preferably remove them by mechanic or manual means and shall use appropriate, padded tools, covers (against biotransmitters), cover crops such as: legumes and wild plants. Fire can be used as thermal control only by means of flames, flamethrowers and blowtorches, in places such as edges and paths between rows.

ARTICLE 48. Organic operators shall conduct an ecologic management of pests and diseases by means of timely cultural works; with natural control, use of traps and/or predators, natural plant, animal or mineral preparations, biological control, and physical and/or mechanical control with color traps, among others.

ARTICLE 49. Organic operators shall manage or favor the diversity in the ecosystems and thus promote the development of natural enemies of pests or diseases for their control or reduction of incidence; encourage an agroecological management of crops, the design of sustainable agroecosystems to contribute with the health of crops or plants.

ARTICLE 50. If the application of all the prior measures and the ecological management of pests and diseases is not enough to maintain pests and diseases below the economic threshold, operators may use the substances and materials in Table 2 of ANNEX 1 of the National List or those that comply with the provisions set forth in Title VI of this Agreement according to the uses stated.

SECTION VII

USE OF PLASTICS

ARTICLE 51. Plastics used in crops such as soil covers, fibers, insect nets, hail nets, trays, silage covers, irrigation ducts and components, and greenhouse bags are permitted only if they are manufactured with polyethylene, polypropylene or other polycarbonates. Chlorinated plastics, including PVC, are not permitted for such uses.

Plastics employed shall be removed from organic plots after usage; therefore these shall not be burned to prevent production of dioxins and furans, and organic operators shall try to send them to recycling sites.

The use of chlorinated plastics in pipes carrying irrigation water shall be permitted only as long as they are not exposed to direct sunlight or other heat sources when they contain liquids, a circumstance that must be described in the Organic Plan.

SECTION VIII

WILD PLANTS OR COLLECTION PRODUCTS

ARTICLE 52. In the case of wild plants or from collection, their collection area shall be free from contamination with prohibited substances or materials for a period of 36 months prior collection and/or shall be located and far from the conventional production and contamination areas or sites, at an adequate distance that ensures they are free from contamination. The operators must manage or favor diversity in the agroecosystem and with this contribute to the development of natural enemies.

ARTICLE 53. Products collected or their parts shall come from a wild environment or shall naturally grow in natural areas, woods, or in a clearly defined collection area, which shall be subject to a procedure of annual organic inspection detailed in Title IV, Chapter V, Section II of this Agreement, either by the Secretariat itself, the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, as appropriate, in accordance with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 54. Harvest and collection of final product of wild or collection plants shall not affect the stability of the natural habitat or the maintenance of the species in the area.

ARTICLE 55. The Organic Operator who manages harvest or collection of wild or collection plants and non-wood forestry species shall be familiarized with the defined areas of collection, and in its case, the management or processing that does not alter the ecosystem as a whole and meets the requirements of record and control.

ARTICLE 56. The collection area shall be clearly identified with:

- I. Exploitation stands;
- II. Sketch map of location, and
- III. The establishment of a protection strip of at least 25 meters, if there are asphalt roads and/or neighboring cultivation systems using prohibited substances and shall be set out in the management Organic Plan.

ARTICLE 57. The operator shall ensure that the area of wild collection is free of sources of contamination with prohibited substances, therefore, in case there is history of usage of chemicals, the Organic Plan shall include the analysis of the soil or plant, showing it is free of prohibited substances. In case there is contamination with prohibited substances, it shall pass through the conversion process.

ARTICLE 58. The operator shall attach to the Organic Plan the valid permit or registration of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, where applicable, which shall be presented before the Secretariat, the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, as the case may be.

SECTION IX

HARVEST, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF FRESH OR RAW PLANT PRODUCTS

ARTICLE 59. In the case of harvest, storage and transportation of fresh or raw plant products in order to preserve the organic integrity of the product and develop harvest, storage and shipping procedures that preserve the greater freshness and nutritional quality of organic products such as appearance, hygiene, freshness and nutrition, the techniques and materials included in this Agreement shall be used; consequently, ionizing irradiation of certified food is prohibited.

ARTICLE 60. Work areas for the harvest, packaging and storage of organic products shall remain clean and free of contact with any prohibited substances.

ARTICLE 61. Harvest volumes of products to be certified shall be consistent with the crop management, cultivated surfaces, climate conditions and varieties, which shall be set out in the organic plan.

ARTICLE 62. Organic operators shall keep a recording and control system of harvested organic products in the premises or community warehouses or storages to ease traceability, which shall be provided to the Secretariat, organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, if required.

ARTICLE 63. In case the Organic Operator requires water in post-harvest management, this shall be drinking water and once used efforts shall be made to perform treatment techniques to reuse or discharge it.

ARTICLE 64. In order to maintain the organic integrity of the product, the storage, warehouses or premises where organic products are kept shall preferably be exclusive for organic products, completely clean and free of prohibited substances, preventing their contact with the ground or soil and platforms free of chemical treatment shall be used.

Organic Operator shall use clean containers and in good conditions, exclusive for organic products; according to the relevant product, containers of vegetal fiber, glass, wood, cardboard or food grade material that protect the integrity of the organic product shall be used.

When products other than organic ones are stored in storages or premises for organic products, a separation shall be used to protect the integrity of organic products.

ARTICLE 65. Organic products shall have an identification system that ensures a clear separation of these products, which shall operate as a tool to ease the flow follow-up of the product or the traceability that may be performed in each stage until transformation or processing.

Operators shall avoid any possibility of mixture with non-organic products, including also plant products from collection.

ARTICLE 66. In case operators identify pests in the storages and/or the facilities in general, intended for organic products, they shall develop or apply any of the following measures:

I. Preventive measures, such as:

- a) Eliminate the pest habitat or conditions that promote its development, sources of food and reproduction areas;
- b) Prevent its access to handling facilities, and
- c) Manage environmental factors such as temperature, lighting, humidity, atmosphere and air circulation, to prevent the pest reproduction.

II. Management measures, such as:

- a) Mechanical or physical controls including, but not limited to traps, lighting or sound, or
- b) Attractants or repellents using non-synthetic or synthetic substances included in Table 2 of ANNEX 1 of the National List or which meet the provisions set forth in Title VI of this Agreement.

III. Control measures.

If none of the practices set out in sections I and II were effective, those included in table 2 of ANNEX 1 of the National List or the ones that comply with Title VI of this Agreement; or, recommended by the group of experts of the Council may be applied, provided that the Organic Operator states so and demonstrates to the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, through the Organic Plan or registration system and took all the necessary measures to prevent contact of the products or ingredients organically produced with the substance employed.

The prior practices shall be applied giving preference to the preventive and management measures, only in case pests prevail, control measures may be applied.

ARTICLE 67. If despite the practices applied according to the prior articles the pests prevail in the processing or handling facilities, the Operator may use substances as required by the federal laws and regulations, provided that the measures to prevent contact of the substance used with organically produced products or ingredients are taken, prior notice to the Secretariat or the corresponding certification body.

ARTICLE 68. The Organic Operator shall set out in the Organic Plan the application methods and use of such substances mentioned in the prior article; furthermore, the operator shall present in said Organic Plan all the measures taken to prevent contact of the substance applied with organically produced products or ingredients.

ARTICLE 69. For organic products transfer, Organic Operators shall conduct all the measures required to prevent contamination of the product to be transported using, if that is the case, the use of canvas tops, containers or other means and keep a record of the actions performed, which shall be kept in case the Secretariat, the organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, requires so.

SECTION X

CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS WITH PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN

ARTICLE 69 Bis. Products from geographic regions of the country covered by the General Statements for the Protection of Designations of Origin and intended to be certified as organic, besides fulfilling the Mexican Official Standards or the Mexican Standards that apply to them, shall also comply with the Organic Products Law, the Regulation thereof, this Agreement, and with any other applicable regulation.

SUB-CHAPTER II

ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ITS GENERALITIES

SECTION I

BOVINE, EQUINE, PORCINE, OVINE, CAPRINE SPECIES, POULTRY AND RABBITS

ARTICLE 70. In order to maintain the organic integrity of animal production, organic operators shall abide by the following general principles:

- I. Organic animal production shall contribute to the equilibrium of agricultural systems, fulfilling the needs of nutrients of crops and improving the organic matter of the soil; therefore, operators shall establish and maintain the soil-plant, plant-animal and animal-soil interdependence. If operator is not provided with surface area for farm production or a written cooperation agreement with another operator, the livestock production cannot be organic production;

II. Renewable natural resources such as manure, agricultural residues and compost shall be used to fertilize soils. Systems of crop production, animal husbandry and grazing shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility in the long run, and shall contribute to developing sustainable agricultural and livestock production;

III. Grazing areas and handling pens shall be available, unless an exception is authorized for medical prescription, animal wellness, or behavioral issues amongst others. The number of animals per unit area shall be limited as stated in tables 8, 9 and 10 of ANNEX 1 to ensure comprehensive management of animal production at the production unit, thus minimizing the contamination of soils, superficial waters, or phreatic surfaces;

IV. Organic animal production shall help to preserve threatened plant or animal species in the region where this activity is conducted. The animal burden shall be limited according to the available hectares or as stated in Table 8 of ANNEX 1 in order to prevent problems of overcrowding and soil erosion and to allow manure spreading so as to minimize any negative impact to the environment;

V. Animals living in the same production unit shall be raised as stated in this Agreement, with the exception of what is specified in Article 79 regarding the introduction of males coming from non-organic units for reproduction purposes;

VI. When an organic farm is raising conventional animals, these shall be from species or animal varieties other than the organic one and which breeding is to be conducted in units and in premises or plots clearly separated from the organic production units; and

VII. Organic grazing areas may be used for grazing of non-organic animals during a limited period of time each year, provided that they are animals of extensive livestock farming and that at the same time there is no grazing of organic animals or of non-organic animals in conversion. The stocking ratio should be in accordance with table 8 of ANNEX 1 of the provisions set forth in this Agreement.

SECTION II

ANIMALS OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS OR NON-DOMESTIC

ARTICLE 71. Animals from natural or non-domestic ecosystems or collections, such as iguanas, deer, wild boars, or others, shall come from Management Unit Systems for Wildlife Conservation (UMAs), and be exploited in compliance with applicable and relevant regulations. This will protect the habitat and promote a rational use without damaging vegetable and animal populations, therefore:

- I. Organic products derived from UMAs shall comply with all the principles of organic production, and
- II. The extraction and recovery rate cannot exceed the rate indicated in the Organic Plan.

SECTION III

ORIGIN OF THE ANIMALS

ARTICLE 72. At the time of selecting the animals, organic operators shall take into account their capacity to adapt to the environmental conditions and resistance to diseases, in order to prevent and avoid specific zoo- sanitary problems associated with determined species used in intensive livestock farming; consequently preference shall be given to creole breeds or those better adapted.

ARTICLE 73. Animals shall come from Organic Production units in accordance with the different types of animal production. The above does not apply when the Organic Production of flock, pack, or herd is started and the sufficient amount of animals from the same species or the amount desired produced under the same Organic Production system is not available. Animals bred in non-organic system may be introduced under the following conditions:

- I. Young birds called pullets for egg production, as long as they are no more than 18 weeks of age.
- II. Poultry for meat production shall be less than 12 days old. Turkeys may be up to 28 days old;
- III. Calves for reproduction, provided that the handling method is in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Agreement, from the moment of weaning or in any case they are less than six months of age;
- IV. Lambs and young goats for reproduction, provided that the breeding method is in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Agreement, from the moment of weaning or in any case they are less than 60 days of age, or

V. Piglets for reproduction, provided that the breeding method is in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Agreement, from the moment of weaning and weighting less than 35 kg.

ARTICLE 74. In certified operations, renewal or reconstruction of the flock, pack, or herd when organic animals are not available may be conducted in the following cases:

- I. When the Secretariat applies zoosanitary measures involving the reduction of the animal population;
- II. Due to high mortality of animals caused by diseases or catastrophes;
- III. When young birds pullets for egg production are less than 18 weeks of age;
- IV. As for poultry for meat production, they shall be less than 12 days old. Turkeys may be up to 28 days old;
- V. Regarding suckling pigs for reproduction, from weaning, with a weight less than 35 kg, or:
- VI. As for rabbits for reproduction, from weaning, about 35 to 40 days old.

The above cases shall pass through conversion and shall be set out in the operator records.

ARTICLE 75. In specific cases of pigs, poultry raised for egg production and poultry raised for meat production that require greater time for renewal or reconstitution of the herd or flock, when organic animals are not available it shall be set out in the operator records as well as the technical elements that justify so and the animals shall pass through conversion.

ARTICLE 76. In the case there are difficulties to obtain organic breeders due to the existence of a reduced genetic heritage, which limits the sector development, producers may introduce a limited number of non- organic adult male and nulliparous female mammals for renewal or reconstruction of herds or flocks or a pack, which shall be bred in accordance with this Agreement; and the number of females shall be subjected to the following annual restriction:

- I. Non-organic females may represent only a maximum of 10% of adult equine or bovine, including bubalus and bison species and 20% of adult porcine, ovine and caprine, and
- II. In units with less than ten animals of equine or bovine species, or less than five animals of porcine, ovine or caprine species, above mentioned renewal shall be limited to a maximum of one animal per year.

ARTICLE 77. Percentages established in the prior article shall not be applied to production units with less than 10 animals from bovine species, or less than 5 animals from porcine ovine or caprine species. For these units, renewal or reconstitution of the herd or flock when organic animals are not available mentioned in article 73, shall be limited to a maximum of one animal per year.

ARTICLE 78. Percentages mentioned in article 76 may increase until reaching 40% in the following special cases:

- I. When an important extension of the farm or exploitation is undertaken;
- II. When breed is changed;
- III. When new breeding specialization is started, and
- IV. When there are breeds in danger of abandonment or extinction, in which case females of such breeds shall not necessarily be nulliparous.

In all case shall be organically bred at least during one year; further, these cases shall be set out in the operator records.

ARTICLE 79. In the cases the introduction of non-organic males is required for reproduction purposes, animals once introduced in the unit shall be bred and fed according to the provisions set forth in this Agreement; therefore, the Secretariat, the organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification shall observe their compliance by requesting to Organic Operators to state so in their Organic Plan.

ARTICLE 80. In all the cases when non-organic animals are introduced for herd or flock renewal or reconstitution in accordance with the provisions set forth section III of this sub-chapter, addressing the measures established in the zoo-sanitary provisions, consequently a notice shall be given to the Secretariat when suspecting that any of the animals does not comply with the animal health provisions; the Secretariat shall order its immediate removal from the market and shall establish the corresponding zoo-sanitary measures in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 88 of the Federal Law on Animal Health.

SECTION IV

FEEDING

ARTICLE 81. Feeding for organic animal production shall serve the purpose of production quality, therefore, it shall meet nutrition requirements throughout the livestock development stages. Forced feeding, including the use of appetite stimulants, continual feeding day and night, and the implant or use of prohibited fattening substances is prohibited. Synthetic growth factors or synthetic amino acids shall not be used, except for methionine, which shall be used only for organic bird production, where it shall be limited to the following levels per feed ton: laying hens and meat birds shall have no more than 2 pounds per feed ton, and turkeys and other birds shall have no more than 3 pounds per feed ton.

ARTICLE 82. Operators shall ensure that feeding of animals for Organic Production is by means of simple organic feedstuffs or the elaboration of composed portions or diets.

ARTICLE 83. Handling of animals for organic production shall be conducted according to the provisions set forth in this Agreement, using food from the unit or, when possible, from other units or companies that observe the Organic Products Law, its Regulations and this Agreement.

Except for the period of each year in which animals practice transhumance, at least 50% of the food for herbivores shall come from the farm itself or, if this is not possible, shall be produced with other organic farms or ranches; evidence of this action shall be set out in the Organic Plan.

ARTICLE 84. Up to a maximum of 40% of the feed ration formula may come from feed in conversion. When such conversion feed comes from a unit pertaining to the same farm or ranch, the percentage may be increased to 65%. These figures shall be expressed in percent of dry matter of agricultural food.

ARTICLE 85. Young mammals feeding shall be based in organic milk, preferably mother's milk. All mammals shall be fed based in organic milk during a minimum period, according to the relevant species, that shall be of 3 months for bovine, 45 days for equine, ovine, caprine and 40 days for porcine.

ARTICLE 86. When necessary, due to lack of food, animals may be transferred to areas provided with the organic recognition by the Secretariat, the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification for grazing purposes. This situation shall be set out in the Organic Plan.

ARTICLE 87. In herbivores, breeding systems shall be based in the maximum use of pasture according its availability during the different seasons of the year. At least 60% of dried matter of the daily intake shall be composed by common, fresh, dried or fodder or silage. However, in the case of animals for milk production, operator may use up to 50% during a maximum period of 3 months at the beginning of nursing.

ARTICLE 88. Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in article 83, in critical years of lack of food due to natural catastrophes determined by the Secretariat, by means of the corresponding declaration, the Organic Operator may use a limited proportion of food external to the production unit in accordance to the following order of preference: organic, in conversion to organic, extensive or traditional or natural agriculture and as a last resort, from conventional or intensive agriculture, in accordance with the legal provisions issued by the Secretariat to that effect. In the last three cases, breeders shall include in their Organic Plan evidence that proves the impossibility of obtaining Organic Production food and make it available for the Secretariat, the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat for verification and inspection purposes.

The percentage of conventional food for non-herbivore animals such as pigs and poultry, within a period of three years from the publication of this Agreement shall be deferred as follows:

In the case of natural catastrophes, the Secretariat shall give notice by means of an official letter to the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat of the terms in which the following shall be used:

10% of non-organic food of plant or animal origin calculated of dried matter of the annual diet, and 5%
of non-organic food of plant or animal origin calculated of dried matter of the annual diet.

In both cases, the percentage cannot be over 25% of daily diet.

This situation shall be set out in the operators records and shall be verified and audited by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, to apply a participatory certification.

ARTICLE 89. In the case forage production is lost or restrictions are imposed derived from exceptional meteorological conditions, due to outbreak of infectious diseases, for contamination with prohibited substances, or

due to fire, the Secretariat shall immediately give notice by means of an official letter to the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat that for a limited period of time and for an specific area, a greater percentage of foodstuffs or conventional food may be determined according to the procedure of the prior article.

ARTICLE 90. Organic operators shall include fresh, dried forage resources available of the region or silage to daily diet of pigs or poultry, or other food resources available.

ARTICLE 91. Only the products included in paragraphs 1.5 and 3 of table 6 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement may be used as additives or processing aids, respectively, in fodder silage.

ARTICLE 92. Raw material for animal feed may be used as follows:

I. Of conventional, agricultural origin may be used only if included in article 140, regarding raw material of plant origin for animal feed provided that they comply with the quantitative restrictions set forth in this Agreement, and

II. Of conventional or organic animal origin, if they are mentioned in Article 141 regarding raw materials of animal origin for animal feeding, as long as they adhere to the quantitative restrictions set forth in this Agreement and to the current animal health regulations.

ARTICLE 93. In terms of raw material of plant origin for animal feed included in article 140 of this Agreement, those non-organically produced may be used provided that these same products do not exist under the organic system in the country and must be recorded in their internal records; this situation shall be verified or inspected by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.

ARTICLE 94. In order to fulfill the needs of the animals for nutrition requirements, only the products mentioned included in article 142, regarding raw material of mineral origin and in sections 1.1 (dietary elements) and 1.2 (vitamins, provitamins) of Table 6 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement, shall be used.

ARTICLE 95. Only the products included in Table 6 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement may be used in animal feed with the purposes stated in connection with the categories mentioned in the previously mentioned normative precepts. No antibiotics, synthetic coccidiostats, drugs, growth promoters or any other substance used to stimulate growth or production shall be used or applied.

ARTICLE 96. Animal feed, raw material for animal feed, additives and processing aids in animal feed and certain products used in animal feed shall not be produced with the use of excluded methods or from them, nor from genetically modified products or products derived thereof

SECTION V

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PESTS AND DISEASES AND DISEASE PREVENTION

ARTICLE 97. In order to control and prevent diseases, the Organic Operator shall observe the following:

- I. Select resistant or tolerant species, according to the agro-climatic or ecosystem conditions;
- II. The application of appropriate zoo-technical practices adjusted to the needs of each species and which favor the resistance to diseases;
- III. The use of high quality feeding, in combination with exercise and access to pastures on a regular basis to favor the development of natural immunological defenses of the animal, and
- IV. Maintenance of the adequate animal density in the production units, preventing overload and health problems that this could pose.

ARTICLE 98. If despite all the preventive measures indicated an animal becomes sick or injured, it shall be immediately treated in isolation conditions when required and in adequate premises; therefore the use of veterinary medicinal products in organic farms or ranches shall meet the following:

- I. Preferably, phytotherapy products from extracts, plant essences, homeopathic products such as plant, animal and mineral essences and trace elements shall be used, as well as the products mentioned in Article 142 related to raw materials of mineral origin (mineral origin food) of this Agreement, instead of chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary drugs;
- II. If the use of the products indicated is not effective, or not likely to be effective, to heal a disease or injury, and the administration of a treatment that prevents suffering or disorders to animals is essential,

chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics may be used under the responsibility of a veterinarian;

III. The use of chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics as preventive treatments are hereby prohibited, and

IV. Besides the provisions set forth in sections I, II and III, veterinary treatments to animals or the treatment of equipment and facilities mandatory in virtue of the national law are authorized; particularly the use of veterinary immunological drugs, once the presence of diseases in the area where the production unit is, is detected.

ARTICLE 99. Whenever veterinary medicinal products are to be used, the Organic Operator shall clearly enter in the record the type of product indicating the active drug substances contained, and include detailed information of the diagnosis, application doses, administration method, treatment duration and time of withdrawal or the clearance time required to eliminate substances or their residues in live animals or in their products.

Furthermore, animals treated shall be clearly identified; big animals, individually and poultry and small animals, individually or per lots.

If substance used is not included as permitted in the National List, the animals treated with it cannot be marketed as organic.

ARTICLE 100. The waiting period between the last administration of the allopathic veterinary medication to the animal, under normal conditions of use, in accordance with the instructions shown on the label, and the organic food products which are obtained from said animal, will be double or doubled to ensure the absence of medication residue; and, in the event that there is no specified time, the waiting period shall be 72 hours.

ARTICLE 101. Animals receiving more than three chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary treatments or antibiotics in one year (or if their production life cycle is less than one year and they receive more than one treatment) such animals, their products and byproducts, shall not be sold as organic and they shall undergo the conversion period as stated in this Agreement. Such situation shall be logged, and notice given to the Secretariat or the body responsible for certification, so that they can assess whether those animals subject to the veterinary treatment can maintain their organic designation.

The notice referred to in the prior paragraph shall be by means of a free writing addressed to the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, complying with the formalities set forth in article 15 of the Federal Law on Administrative Procedure, and stating the reasons why it is necessary to apply the veterinary treatment. The Secretariat shall have 10 working days following the presentation of the notice to inform the particular on any missing information.

SECTION VI

ANIMAL HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

SUBJECT I

ZOOTECHNICAL PRACTICES

ARTICLE 102. Organic reproduction of animals shall be based on natural methods. The other forms of artificial or assisted reproduction, like cloning, embryo transfer, among others are not permitted.

However, artificial insemination may be conducted prior authorization of the Secretariat, the organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a certification, by means of a free writing providing their identification number as Organic Operator and attaching the technical support justification, thus, these shall issue an answer to the Organic Operator request within a maximum term of five working days. In case the Organic Operator does not comply with the requested information referred to in this Agreement, the Secretariat, the body approved or authorized by the Secretariat shall prevent him within a maximum period of three working days. Therefore, the Organic Operator shall have three working days to amend the prevention made, if opposite, the request shall be dismissed.

The validity of the authorization shall be of three months from issuance.

ARTICLE 103. In animal management practices, it is prohibited the use or administration of substances intended to stimulate growth or hormone production, or other similar substances to control reproduction or to induce or synchronize estrus. This includes antibiotics, coccidiostatic agents, and any other agent with a similar effect.

ARTICLE 104. In organic animal handling practices, operations such as the placement of rubber rings in the tail of sheep or male testicles, tail cutting or teeth cutting or beak trimming and horn removal as well as animal tethering cannot be performed.

However, the aforementioned practices may be performed due to safety reasons, such as horn removal in young animals or when aimed to improve welfare or hygiene of animals, provided that these are conducted by qualified personnel and the animal has an advanced age, prior authorization from the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, by means of a free writing providing the identification number as Organic Operator attaching the technical justification and identification information of animals to which such practices shall be applied, thus these shall issue an answer to the Organic Operator request within a maximum period of five working days. In the case the Organic Operator does not comply with the requested information referred to in this Agreement, the Secretariat, the body approved or acknowledged by the Secretariat shall prevent the organic operator within a maximum period of three working days to amend the prevention made, if opposite the request shall be dismissed.

ARTICLE 105. Physical castration shall be permitted in order to maintain the quality of the products and traditional practices of production, provided that this is performed by qualified personnel and the animal is at an adequate age for the handling practice, thus preventing animal stress.

ARTICLE 106. According to the previous article, operators shall guarantee environmental conditions to allow the animals to express filial, reproductive and trophic behavior unique to every species, and a handling that meets the animals' wellness needs, with areas furnished with appropriate beds where they can be cared for in an individual manner.

ARTICLE 107. Only for individual units, animals may be kept tethered when they cannot be kept in appropriate groups, the Organic Operator shall monitor that they are capable of graze in an open area or an exercise area in the open. This situation shall be set out in the operator record.

ARTICLE 108. In those cases where animals are bred in groups, the size of the groups shall be defined in terms of the development stage of the animals and the needs inherent to the behavior of the species concerned and animal welfare. It is prohibited to subject animals to certain conditions or to a diet that favors anemia appearance or practices that stimulate appetite and favor the appearance of metabolic problems.

ARTICLE 109. As regards to poultry, the ages at the time of slaughter shall be as a minimum the following:

- I. 81 days for ducks;
- II. 49 days for chickens;
- III. 100 days for female turkeys;
- IV. 140 days for male turkeys and geese; and
- V. 150 days for capons (male fowl castrated).

SUBJECT II

ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

ARTICLE 110. Animal transportation shall be performed in such a way that the stress to which they are subjected to is reduced and animal welfare ensured. Cages and transportation means shall be in appropriate conditions of cleanliness and this, if necessary, shall be made with products permitted in this Agreement. Whenever possible, transportation time shall be reduced.

ARTICLE 111. Load and unload shall be conducted with caution, without using any electrical stimulation system in animals. The use of allopathic tranquilizers before and after transportation is prohibited.

During the phase leading to slaughter and at the time of it, animals shall be treated in such a way that the stress is reduced to a minimum and looking for animal welfare.

SUBJECT III
IDENTIFICATION

ARTICLE 112. All organic animals shall be permanently identified using the appropriate techniques in each species; individually in the case of larger species and individually or per lot in the case of poultry and smaller species. Likewise, animals or animal products shall be identified throughout the entire production, preparation, transportation and marketing chain. The aforementioned to ease traceability.

ARTICLE 113. In the slaughter area of organic animals, processing areas shall comply with the requirements stated in Chapter III processing and marketing of this Agreement.

SUBJECT IV
MANURE

ARTICLE 114. In grazing areas and considering the time spent by the animals grazing, the stocking density shall not exceed 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year (N/ha/year), and all of the manure and urine produced by the animals shall be applied to the soil.

For different types of animals, stocking density shall be defined according to Table 8 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 115. Based on the previous article, the amount of nitrogen incorporated into the soil and produced by the animals may be less than 170 kg (N/ha/year), depending on the characteristics of the area in question and the application of other nitrogen sources such as fertilizers and pulses, among others.

ARTICLE 116. Organic farms or ranches that produce more than 170 kg (N/ha/year) may enter into cooperation arrangements exclusively with other organic farms and companies in order to spread the excess manure from their organic production. The maximum limit of 170 kg of manure nitrogen per hectare per year shall be estimated according to all of the organic farms involved in such cooperation arrangements.

ARTICLE 117. The capacity of the manure storage facilities shall be such that the handling reduces contamination or prevents it, due to runoff or filtration to sources of water or to the ground.

ARTICLE 118. In order to improve the adequate management of manure, the capacity of the facilities for its management shall be above the capacity of the required storage in the seasons of highest concentration. Concentration may be due to an inadequate season to apply manure to cultivation plots, the unit is located within the area classified as vulnerable to nitrates and where their application is prohibited, among others.

SECTION VII
PENS, HOUSING AND OUTDOOR AREAS FOR ANIMALS

ARTICLE 119. Operators shall observe the following as general principles for organic animals in pens, outdoor areas and housing:

I. Housing conditions of animals shall answer to their biological and ethological needs, such as the appropriate liberty of movement and comfort; only in some cases shall be in the open, when climate conditions make possible the life of animals;

II. Housing areas shall allow for sufficient natural ventilation and light, isolation, heating and ventilation of the areas shall ensure that air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative humidity and gas concentration are kept within limits that are not harmful for animals;

III. Animals shall have easy access to food and water;

IV. Animals shall have permanent access to outdoor areas, if applicable, to pastures, provided that the vegetation, soils and atmospheric conditions allow so, according to the provisions set forth in Table 8 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement, and

V. Pens, outdoors areas and open spaces shall provide animals with comfort and adequate protection against rain, wind, sun, and extreme temperatures. Depending on local climate conditions, specific breeds, and other necessary conditions, such areas shall conform to the provisions of Table 9 or 10 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement, and

VI. Facilities shall include adequate spaces to allow the animals to express social, reproductive and trophic behavior, as well as decrease stress resulting from confinement, thus promoting animal comfort

SUBJECT I

LIVESTOCK DENSITY, OVERGRAZING PREVENTION AND CLEANING

ARTICLE 120. Animal concentration in the outdoor areas shall be compatible with the comfort and welfare of animals considering the following:

I. The Organic Operator shall consider the needs inherent to the behavior of animals according to the group size, physiological status and sex, factors that will depend on the species, breeds and age of the animals. Optimal load cannot exceed the standards established in the following article, in order to ensure animal welfare, providing them with sufficient space to stand up in a natural way, to lay down easily, turn, clean themselves, to be in any normal position and make natural movements like stretching and wing flapping, and

II. In zones where climate conditions allow the animals to live outside, housing areas shall not be required, as long as there are shade structures, feed troughs and drinking troughs.

ARTICLE 121. In terms of livestock density, the provisions set forth in Tables 8, 9 and 10 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement where the minimum surfaces for stabling and exercise areas and other accommodation conditions are established, corresponding to the different species and types of animals, shall be observed.

ARTICLE 122. Livestock density in the outdoors, pasture, other types of fields, scrub-land, wet areas and other natural or semi-natural habitats, shall be sufficiently low to prevent pasture, native vegetation destruction due to overgrazing, muddy places or soil erosion according to the provisions set forth in the prior article.

ARTICLE 123. Accommodations, facilities and tools shall be suitably cleaned and sanitized in order to prevent multiple infections or the development of germ-carrier organisms. For this cleaning and sanitization of areas and facilities only the products listed in Table 7 of ANNEX 1 of the National List shall be used.

Manure, urine and food that is spilled or not consumed shall be removed regularly enough for a maximum reduction of smells, to prevent the attraction of insects, rodents and prevent infections. For the elimination of insects and other pests in spaces and other facilities for animals, only those listed in Table 2 of ANNEX 1 of the National List may be used.

SUBJECT II

MAMMALS

ARTICLE 124. According to Chapter II of this Agreement, mammals shall have access to pastures or open spaces or outdoor areas, that may be partially covered, and must be able to use these areas whenever the animals' physiologic conditions, the atmospheric conditions, and the soil conditions allow so, unless other regulations from a competent authority prohibit it due to specific animal health issues. Herbivorous animals shall have access to pastures as conditions allow so, and bulls older than one year shall have access to pastures, open spaces or outdoor areas.

ARTICLE 125. Regarding the provisions set forth in the above article, the final fattening phase of cattle, pigs and sheep for meat production may be carried out in a closed area, provided that it does not exceed a fifth part of their lifetime and in any case a maximum of three months.

ARTICLE 126. When herbivore animals have access to pastures during the grazing period and when the accommodation system due to adverse climatological conditions animals to move freely, the obligation to provide open exercise spaces and outdoor areas may be suspended during adverse conditions due to events where the will of mankind does not intervene.

ARTICLE 127. The floor of the facilities where animal breeding takes place shall be provided with an adequate drainage and shall not be slippery. As a minimum, half of the surface shall be sound floor with solid materials other than slats. In the case of sheep, pig and goat of humid areas, there can be an area(s) with slat(s).

ARTICLE 128. Accommodation shall be provided with a comfortable, wide, clean and dry area to sleep or rest, built with the materials characteristic of each region. As part of animal welfare, rest areas shall have straw or other adequate natural materials and may be improved and/or enriched with any of the natural products included in Table 1 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 129. Accommodation of calves in individual areas during the first week of life is prohibited, unless for prevention of diseases.

ARTICLE 130. Adult female pigs may be kept in groups, except during breast feeding and in the last third of the gestation period, times in which they may remain in wide, individual corrals to ensure their welfare. Piglets cannot be kept in raised platforms or cages. Exercise areas shall allow animals to make their physiological needs and practice the habits characteristic of their species.

SUBJECT III

BIRDS

ARTICLE 131. Poultry shall be raised under open area conditions and in accordance with the requirements included in Tables 8 and 10 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement.

Poultry houses shall be built in such a way that birds have easy access to outdoor areas. A specific area to pile and compost excreta shall be made available, avoiding to the maximum any negative effect to the environment.

ARTICLE 132. When meteorological conditions allow so, aquatic birds shall have access to watercourse, puddle or pond in order to respect the requirements of animal welfare or the hygiene conditions.

ARTICLE 133. The premises for poultry shall comply with the following conditions:

- I. At least one third of the floor shall be a sound construction, this is, not in the form of bars or slats, covered with straw, shaving, sand or peatbed;
- II. Floor of poultry houses shall be covered with a bed of a dried material capable of absorbing the moisture of the excrement. This bed shall be regularly turned and changed to reduce excessive moisture;
- III. Poultry houses shall be provided with entry and exit hatches of an adequate size for birds in a ratio of at least four meters of hatches per each 100 square meters of the premises surface area available for poultry;
- IV. In the case of laying hens, facilities shall have a floor surface where animals can move and excrete allowing an easy cleaning;
- V. Crossbeams shall be made available to birds for sleeping, the number and dimensions of which shall reflect the size of the group and of the birds, in accordance with table 10 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement;
- VI. Each poultry house shall not have more than:
 - a. 4800 chickens,
 - b. 3000 laying hens,
 - c. 5200 Guinea hens,
 - d. 2500 capons, geese or turkeys, and
- VII. Total surface area of poultry houses that can be used for meat production, of each production center shall not exceed 1,600 m².

ARTICLE 134. In the case of laying hens, organic operators may supplement natural light required with artificial means to obtain a maximum of 16 hours of light on a daily basis, with a period of continuous night rest without artificial light of at least 8 hours.

ARTICLE 135. When birds are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations due to official zoosanitary requirements, they shall have access at all times to enough amounts of fodder and other appropriate materials to meet their ethological needs.

ARTICLE 136. When meteorological conditions allow so, organic operators shall give poultry access to outdoor areas; said access shall be ensured at least during one third of poultry lifetime, provided that it is possible. Open areas shall be covered with vegetation for the most part and shall be provided with protections and allow animals to easily access water dispensers and troughs.

ARTICLE 137. Organic operators shall ensure that the areas are emptied after each batch of poultry is reared, to clean and sanitize buildings and material used in them. In addition, when the rearing of each batch of poultry has been completed, corrals shall be evacuated so vegetation can grow and for sanitary reasons.

SUBJECT IV

**GENERAL EXCEPTION REGARDING ANIMAL ACCOMMODATION
AND CATASTROPHIC CIRCUMSTANCES**

ARTICLE 138. In accordance with the provisions set forth in articles 126, 133, 134 and the stocking density considered in Tables 8, 9 and 10 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement, with reference to animal accommodation, at the time the interested party applies for organic certification, the latter may request a transitory exception to adapt the infrastructure of the productive unit.

The exception referred to in the preceding paragraph may only be applied to production units with facilities built before December 31, 2015, which have been certified organic under voluntary plans before the mentioned date.

Producers to which this exception can be applied shall set it out in their application O-SQ-F-01, as well as in the organic plan, where the follow-up measures to the end of the exception shall be stated.

The Secretariat, approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as the case may be, shall inform the interested party on the total or partial application of the exception through the document referred to in article 26 of the Regulations.

ARTICLE 139. In the case catastrophic circumstances arise due to exceptional meteorological conditions, a pest or disease outbreak object of zoonosantary or phytosanitary campaigns, fire, and high mortality of animals is produced, the Secretariat shall give notice by means of an official letter to the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as the case may be, and may be authorized to inform organic operators on the renewal or reconstitution of herds or packs with non-organic animals, in case organically raised animals are not available.

In its case, the Operator shall have available for the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as the case may be, the above as well as the supporting documentation of such exception for verification or inspection purposes.

The cases included in this article shall be applied in the case of fodder production loss for animal feed in organic production.

SECTION VIII

RAW MATERIAL FOR ANIMAL FEED

SUBJECT I

RAW MATERIAL OF PLANT ORIGIN

ARTICLE 140. Raw material of plant origin are considered to be, including but not limited to the following:

- I. Cereal grains, seeds, their products and/or byproducts;
- II. Oleaginous vegetable species, their products and byproducts. This category includes seeds, fruits and vegetable oils extracted through physical extraction, and pastes or meals, amongst others;
- III. Legumes, their products and byproducts. This category includes seeds, flours, brans and husks, amongst others;
- IV. Tubers, roots, their products and byproducts. This category includes roots, tubers, pulps, starches, proteins, and flours, amongst others;
- V. Other seeds and fruits, their products and byproducts. This category includes, as appropriate, the following: pods, nuts and acorns of wild species;
- VI. Green forages, silages, hay, foliage flours, straws, roots, stubbles, amongst others, and
- VII. Other vegetables, their products and byproducts, in this category are included among others: molasses, algae meal on drying and algae milling and after washing to reduce iodine content, powders and plant extracts, vegetable protein extracts (provided only to offspring), spices and aromatic plants.

SUBJECT II

RAW MATERIAL OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

ARTICLE 141. Raw material of animal origin are considered to be, including but not limited to the following:

I. Milk and dairy products, such as: raw milk, powdered milk obtained from thermal treatment, skimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk, cottage, milk whey, powdered milk whey, powdered milk whey low in sugar, powdered milk whey protein (by physical treatment), casein powder (powdered cheese) and lactose powder, curd and sour milk (sour), yogurt, dairy byproducts, and cream;

II. Fish and other marine animals, their products and byproducts, the following are included in this category: fish, unrefined fish oil and cod liver oil; autolysates, hydrolysates and proteolysates of fish, mollusks or crustaceans obtained by enzyme action, in soluble and non-soluble form, only for offspring; fish meal, and

III. Eggs and egg products to feed poultry, preferably obtained in the exploitation itself, as well as eggshell as calcium source, provided that it is subjected to a drying, cracking and roasting process.

Animal origin byproducts from slaughter and/or the sacrifice of animals are not allowed, except for those mentioned in section II and whenever they are used in the feeding of non-herbivorous animals, or if they are already regulated by animal health legislation.

SUBJECT III

RAW MATERIAL OF MINERAL ORIGIN

ARTICLE 142. Only the following are considered in this category as raw material of mineral origin:

I. SODIUM: Unrefined sea salt coarse rock salt sodium sulphate sodium carbonate sodium bicarbonate sodium chloride;

II. POTASSIUM: potassium chloride;

III. CALCIUM: shells of aquatic animals (including cuttlefish bone), calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, calcium gluconate;

IV. PHOSPHORUS: defluorinated dicalcium phosphate, defluorinated monocalcium phosphate, monosodium phosphate, calcium-magnesium phosphate, calcium-sodium phosphate;

V. MAGNESIUM: magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesium), magnesium sulfate, magnesium chloride, magnesium carbonate, magnesium phosphate, and

VI. SULFUR: sodium sulfate.

SUB-CHAPTER III

ANIMAL PRODUCTION INSECT CLASS AND ITS GENERALITIES

ARTICLE 143. This Sub-chapter is aimed to regulate the specific production applicable to the following species: bees, insect collection, wild insect capture, and others.

SECTION I

COLLECTION OR WILD CAPTURE ANIMALS AND NON-TRADITIONAL

ARTICLE 144. It is understood as collected animals or under cultivation system among others eggs, larvae, nymphs or adult insects such as maguery worms, cerambycids larvae, Liometopum apiculatum larvae (ant larvae or escamoles), ant's eggs, among others; those captured or cultivated such as grasshoppers, bedbugs, chichatanas or ants, among others, and may be certified as organic, provided that they comply with the following requirements:

I. These shall come from areas of Organic Production or an ecosystem with little or no human intervention and without any contact with prohibited substances;

II. When including evidence in the Organic Plan or attached document demonstrating that collection, cultivation, capture, confinement and processing does not alter or affect the ecosystem as a whole if the capture or extraction rate is not greater than the reproduction rate and the record and control requirements are met, and

III. That by means of the site history or the organic plan, during the last three years, said collection, cultivation or capture areas have not been subjected to any treatment with prohibited products or other than those included in ANNEX 1 of the National List, that jeopardize their organic integrity.

ARTICLE 145. Collection, capture shall not have negative effects or consequences for the environment or for any animal or plant species at risk of extinction, where the capture and extraction rate is not greater than the reproduction rate, which shall be set out in the organic plan.

ARTICLE 146. In the case of collection or capture of any animal species regulated by SEMARNAT, the registration, permit or authorization granted by SEMARNAT shall be attached to the certification application, according to the current regulations, and in the case of the species that require so.

SECTION II

APICULTURAL PRODUCTION

ARTICLE 147. The bee species to be used in organic production shall be those that can adapt to area conditions, with resistance to attacks by pests and diseases. The use of local ecotypes such as stingless bees belonging to the *Meliponini* and *Trigonini* and, as the case may be, *Apis mellifera* varieties, shall be maintained at all times.

ARTICLE 148. For the renovation of beehives, each year a maximum of 10% of queen bees and non-organic swarms may be included to organic beehives. Queen bees and swarms shall be placed in boxes with organic panels or sheets of wax. This shall be registered by beekeepers and shall continue to be recognized as organic.

ARTICLE 148.1. Regarding stingless bee species, only the following shall be allowed:

- I. To make one division per year;
- II. A maximum of 10% of non-organic colonies may be incorporated every year to the organic apiaries, and
- III. The design of the hive structure shall protect its own integrity and that of the bees and shall be suitable for the bees' reproduction and handling, as well as the production and harvest of honey.

The introduction of queen bees into the hive is not permitted.

SUBJECT I

LOCATION OF APIARIES AND FORAGING AREAS

ARTICLE 149. Apiaries and Melipona apiaries shall be located in the places that have:

- I. Sufficient nectar and natural pollen sources for bees;
- II. Sources of clean water;
- III. Apiaries shall have nectar or pollen sources within at least a 3-kilometer radius, preferably organically produced crops, wild vegetation, or traditional cultivation forests, or places not treated with prohibited substances. As for the Melipona apiaries, the radius shall be at least 800 meters, and
- IV. Areas free of prohibited substances affecting the organic integrity of apicultural production.

The requirements listed in this article shall not be applied to the areas when there is no flowering or when beehives are resting.

ARTICLE 150. Apiaries shall be located far enough from sources that might contaminate apiculture products or harm the health of the bees. It is prohibited to place organic apiaries within less than a 3-kilometer radius, or Melipona apiaries within less than an 800-meter radius, of:

- I. Landfill site.
- II. Sanitary landfills or another source of contamination;

- III. Flowering crops treated with pesticides or prohibited substances, or obtained with excluded methods or genetically modified or obtained from genetically modified organisms;
- IV. Cities or populations; places of heavy traffic and contamination;
- V. Market and treatment plants of sewage waters, and
- VI. Other places that might compromise the organic integrity of apiaries and/or Melipona apiaries, as well as products and byproducts thereof.

SUBJECT II

APICULTURAL PRACTICES AND ACCOMMODATION CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 151. Apicultural production shall observe the following:

- I. Beehive boxes shall be made from natural materials without risks of contamination for the bees, for the environment, or for the apiculture products. Regarding stingless bees or Melipona bees, boxes or structures to protect the bee hives shall be made from natural materials not bearing a risk of contamination for the bees, for the environment, or for products and byproducts thereof;
- II. Wax from new frames shall be free of prohibited substances or shall come from organic production units.
- III. In the case of new apiaries or Melipona apiaries, or bee hive boxes, non-organic beeswax may be used only if it can be proven that such wax is not contaminated with prohibited substances;
- IV. Only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils shall be used in beehives.
- V. It is prohibited the use of synthetic chemical repellents during honey collection operations.
- VI. Bee destruction in honeycombs is prohibited as a method associated with collection of beehives;
- VII. Mutilations such as cutting the tip of the wings of queen bees are prohibited, and
- VIII. Honey harvesting from beehives and/or nuclei containing immature bees is prohibited.

SUBJECT III APICULTURAL

FEEDING

ARTICLES 152. Feeding of organic beehives shall be based in the collection of nectar and pollen by the bees in the foraging area. At the end of the productive station, sufficiently abundant honey and pollen reserves shall be left in the beehives for the critical epoch of food shortage.

ARTICLE 153. Artificial feeding of bee colonies shall be permitted only when survival of beehives is jeopardized due to climatological conditions and only between the last honey collection and the 15 days prior to the next period of nectar and honeydew period. Said feeding shall be made with organic honey, organic sugar syrup or organic sugar.

The records of apiaries and/or Melipona apiaries with artificial feeding shall include the following information: type of inputs used; dates feed was supplied; amounts used, and which beehives received artificial feeding.

SUBJECT IV

SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR PROFILAXIS AND VETERINARY TREATMENT IN APICULTURE

ARTICLE 154. For frames, beehives and combs protection, particularly from pests, only the use of substances permitted and the relevant products listed in Table 2 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement called Agents for the ecologic management of insects, fungi, viruses, bacteriae and arvenses, listed in this Agreement shall be used

ARTICLE 155. In apiculture and/or meliponiculture, operators shall take into account the following as a veterinary measure and treatment:

- I. Physical treatments for disinfection of apiaries such as steam or direct flame are permitted

II. The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to isolate the infestation of *Varroa*.

III. If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, the colonies can be placed in isolation apiaries.

IV. Veterinary medicinal products may be used in organic apiculture inasmuch as the corresponding use is registered before the competent authority, in the applicable case and it is included in the national list as permitted.

V. Formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid as well as menthol, thymol, eucalyptol or camphor may be used in cases of infestation with *Varroa destructor*.

VI. If a treatment is applied with chemically synthesized allopathic products, during such a period, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and all the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic apiculture. Subsequently, the conversion period of one year shall apply to those colonies.

VII. When veterinary medicinal products are used, this shall be stated to the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, as the case may be, according to the provisions set forth in article 99 of this Agreement, before beehives or their products are marketed as organic. And shall be clearly identified per beehives or lots, as applicable, in the operator records.

SUBJECT V

CATASTROPHIC CIRCUMSTANCES

ARTICLE 156. In the case of high bee mortality caused by a catastrophe or a disease, the Secretariat shall, taking into account the opinion of the group of experts of the Council, notify by means of an official letter the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as applicable, that procedures for reconstitution of organic beehives with or non-organic beehives can be authorized.

Organic operator shall make available for the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body, or the acknowledged body the corresponding evidence for inspection or verification purposes.

ARTICLE 157. In the case where exceptional meteorological conditions arise during a long period of time or a catastrophe that prevents nectar or honeydew production, and bees are fed with organic honey, organic sugar or organic sugar syrup; the operator shall make available for the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as the case may be, the supporting documentation of the practices mentioned for verification and inspection purposes.

SUBCHAPTER III BIS

AQUATIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ITS GENERALITIES

SECTION I

OF CLASS: FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS

Article 157 Bis. Operators should keep in mind as general principles, in their selection of location sites, production systems and use of resources, the following:

I. In the case of new facilities, operators must take into account that the construction or installation of the system shall not have a negative impact on nearby ecosystems, including but not limited to destroying vegetation, native or rare fauna in danger under the CONABIO classification, or the likely escape or flight of animals. Measures must be taken to avoid such impact;

II. System design shall favor the implementation of measures to reduce or eliminate sanitary or safety problems; therefore, artificial containers may also be used in closed spaces;

III. Separate culture units shall have independent distribution systems when growing both ecologic and non-ecologic organisms at the same time;

IV. Harmless techniques and methods shall be used to protect organic organisms or species from birds of prey and other animal species;

V. Preferably, the energy used in production systems shall be obtained from renewable sources;

VI. The water used in production systems shall be reused or be ecologically treated for use in the same system or for other production systems; and

VII. Waste shall be reduced as much as possible.

Article 157 Ter. As for aquatic organisms, depending on the types of facilities, the conversion time shall have the following periods:

I. Twenty-four months for facilities unable to be vacated, cleaned and disinfected;

II. Twelve months for those facilities that were vacated;

III. Six months for those facilities that were vacated, cleaned and dried, and

IV. Three months for facilities located in open water.

Article 157 Quater. When selecting aquatic animal species and the origin of the stock or batch, operators shall observe the following general principles:

I. At the time of selecting the animals, operators shall consider their ability to adapt to local conditions and their resistance to diseases in order to prevent or avoid specific animal health issues associated with particular varieties used in intensive aquatic production. Native or better-adapted varieties shall be preferred;

II. Preferably, native animal species shall be selected. Other species may be selected based on market demand, provided that there is no risk of escape that would create competition for resources with native species, thus jeopardizing their existence;

III. Broodstock, larvae and fingerlings shall be produced by the company or certified operator itself, whenever possible. If this is not possible, they shall be obtained from broodstock coming from other ecological or organic producers. If that is not possible, they can come from non-ecological aquaculture, managed in an ecological manner for at least three months before they can be used for breeding;

IV. In the event of a lack of ecological juveniles, juveniles from non-ecologic aquaculture can be used, provided that the last two-thirds of their production cycle is managed in an organic way, and

V. (Transgenic) Genetically modified organisms are not permitted.

Article 157 Quinquies. The reproduction and handling of organic aquatic species shall be based on natural methods. Depending on particular species and cases, the following activities may be conducted:

I. Temperature shall be controlled based on the needs of the particular species;

II. Pre-fattening densities may be surpassed in the breeding of larvae and fingerlings, with splits as needed;

III. The use of ozone and ultraviolet light is allowed only in the cultivation units for fries and juveniles; and

IV. The use of hormones is not allowed, except for the sexual reversion of the Tilapia gender, provided that:

a) The hormone used is methyltestosterone;

b) Analysis confirms that such hormone in tissue has been totally dissipated before the sale;

c) The dose, route of administration, frequency and length of the treatment is adjusted according to the applicable legislation;

d) Appropriate protection measures are taken in order to avoid risks to both the technician and the environment. Staff shall be trained to apply this hormone and shall use personal protective equipment;

e) The appropriate handling of residues from this treatment shall be retained for at least 48 hours before their disposal.

Article 157 Sexies. The organic operator shall keep a record of the water quality and its physical and chemical parameters such as temperature, pH, salinity, oxygen, ammonia, and nitrates according to the natural requirements of the species in cultivation.

In the event of a proven need for artificial lightning, it shall not exceed 16 hours, except for reproduction purposes.

Article 157 Septies. Regarding diseases, health and hygiene control and prevention, the operator shall observe the following:

I. The adoption of appropriate safety and protection practices for the particular species through ecological prophylactic media. In case of sickness, natural healing methods shall be used. In case of detecting sick organisms, they shall be separated from the cultivation units;

II. Conventional medicine shall be used only in severe cases to avoid production loss, in which case the affected batch may not be labelled as organic for commercial purposes, unless an analysis proves the absence of residues; and

III. Cultivation units, including ponds, tanks, and cages, amongst others, shall be cleaned and disinfected exclusively with cleaning and disinfection products included in the National List or permitted for organic operations.

Article 157 Octies. The concentration of animals in ponds, tanks or cages shall be compatible with the animal comfort and wellness, and maximum population densities shall be based on each species' habits.

Article 157 Novies. Feeding for organic aquatic animal production shall ensure the quality of such production and shall meet the nutritional needs of every species during their various developmental stages. Depending on the priorities, the feed shall be obtained from the following:

I. Ecological feed from ecological aquaculture;

II. Flour, oil and other waste resulting from ecological aquaculture;

III. Permitted ecological raw materials of vegetable and animal origin;

IV. Feed rations with ecological plant products may comprise a maximum 60%; or

V. Flour, oil and fish from non-ecological aquaculture waste and fisheries for human consumption not exceeding 40% of daily ration.

Every species shall be fed with feed that meets their requirements at each development stage, including the type, amount and composition, according to their activity level and specific features.

All of the food of plant and/or animal origin shall be organically treated and produced without prohibited methods, to be confirmed at the time it is acquired.

Article 157 Decies. Operators shall observe the following general principles regarding transportation and slaughter:

I. Living organisms shall be transported and maintained with adequate levels of oxygen. Transportation density shall not exceed 1 kg/8 liters of water. The water shall be changed after no more than 6 hours of transport and at the same temperature. Transportation duration shall not exceed 10 hours, and

II. Slaughter techniques shall ensure that organisms are rendered immediately unconscious and insensitive to pain.

In order to avoid any deterioration or compromise of tissues by decomposition, the cold chain shall be strictly followed, from slaughter to point of sale. Regarding processed products, only products and additives approved for processing under the National List or assessed as permitted for organic operations shall be permitted.

SUB-CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION OF FUNGI CLASS AND ITS GENERALITIES

ARTICLE 158. For the case of fungus and mushrooms production, raw material shall be tree trunks or any other material useful for their cultivation, including those of specialty.

From production and/or handling, raw material shall be free from substances, materials, consumables among others prohibited according to this Agreement; therefore, the use of additives such as synthetic fertilizers or pesticides shall not be permitted.

For specialty fungus, covers for mycelium sites and trunks used to prevent the loss of humidity shall be paraffin-based with food quality, wax for cheese, mineral oil or bee wax. Recycled wax may be used for the same purposes, provided that its origin can be defined by the operator.

In the case any of the fungus species require coverage, organic material and/or plastic material with food grade shall be used. Tree covers, petroleum products such as oil-based paints and latex are prohibited.

ARTICLE 159. Mycelium and suppliers selection is the choice of the operator. When insufficient offer of organic mycelium, the one from natural production, free of prohibited substances, materials, consumables shall be selected.

ARTICLE 160. The production unit and/or production areas where raw material is located, operators shall observe that air flow is appropriate and shall eliminate blocks affected by pests or diseases. The use of mechanic controls such as traps and physical barriers, biological controls such as natural predators and parasites and other sprayed or powders like diatomaceous earth, soap with permitted substances, as well as diluted bleach used for disinfection are pest controls permitted.

The use of substances, materials, consumables not permitted according to this Agreement is prohibited for the management of pests and weeds.

ARTICLE 161. Location of the production unit or wood lots for the production of specialty fungus produced in the open in natural trunks shall be provided with a buffer strip of 35 m of agricultural fields to prevent slippage of contaminants from crops. The use of weed-killers for weed and bushes control is prohibited.

ARTICLE 162. The operator shall analyze the well, creek or pond water used to soak logs and blocks in order to determine whether concentrations of nitrates and microorganisms are acceptable for production. In urban areas, the use of city water is acceptable. Water otherwise treated, or water contaminated with substances, materials, inputs, amongst others, or byproducts from urban, industrial processes, or from waste treatment, is prohibited.

ARTICLE 163. Handling during harvest, storage and shipping of organic products shall be in such a way to ensure utmost freshness and nutritional quality.

CHAPTER III PROCESSING AND MARKETING

SECTION I RAW MATERIAL

ARTICLE 164. Any raw material intended for processing organic products shall be certified or at least shall comply with the provisions set forth in article 166 in the last article of this section.

ARTICLE 165. The characteristics of raw material shall be:

- I. Its quality same as its nature and amount shall be documented using the registration and documentation systems that support so,
- II. The use of the same treated or fumigated with prohibited products is not permitted, and
- III. The use of irradiated raw material is not permitted.

ARTICLE 166. Raw material ingredients shall be:

- I. At least 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin shall be produced in accordance with this Agreement; and
- II. When ingredients of non-agricultural origin are used, these shall be substances or products listed in Table 3 and/or 4 of ANNEX 1 of this Agreement.

SECTION II HYGIENE AND HEALTH IN PROCESSING PLANTS

ARTICLE 167. A firmly established health program shall be developed in the processing plant, including by way of illustration but not limitation:

- I. The outside establishments and areas: dumps, waste collection center, machinery and old equipment storage, gardens and parking areas;
- II. Inside facilities and areas including processing, packaging, bottling and storage areas;
- III. Processing, bottling and packaging equipment. Programs for insects, bacteriae, fungus and yeast prevention among other unwanted ones;
- IV. Employees hygiene, including health in canteens, rest areas and restrooms; and

V. Establish measures necessary to prevent personnel from jeopardizing the organic integrity of the products.

ARTICLE 168. Instruments and substances used to clean are considered aids in the process; their usage shall be clearly identified and shall not have residues of prohibited materials or substances. Cleaning instruments shall be cleaned after being used to ensure the absence of prohibited residues in the equipment, likewise primary and secondary surfaces used to prepare or elaborate final organic products.

ARTICLE 169. Cleaning and health records indicated in this section shall exist, which shall be available during organic inspection.

SECTION III

ECOLOGIC MANAGEMENT OF INSECTS, FUNGUS, BACTERIAE, VIRUSES AND ARVENSES IN PROCESSING FACILITIES

ARTICLE 170. Management and control of pests and harmful fauna shall be conducted following a firmly structured plan, empathizing the restriction of pests habitat and good sanitation for their elimination, which shall be set out in the organic plan.

ARTICLE 171. Regular inspections shall be carried out in the process plant to determine the presence and in its case, the level of damage caused by pests or harmful fauna.

ARTICLE 172. The following is permitted for pest control:

I. The use of mechanical, electrical, and adhesive traps, and attractants such as traps with pheromones or allowed attractant substances, physical barriers and repellent mechanisms based on light and sound systems;

II. Biological control;

III. Storage methods that offer additional protection to products in terms of adulteration due to harmful animals; and

IV. In the case the practices listed in sections I, II, III are not effective, the use of substances listed in ANNEX 1 of the National List of permitted substances for agricultural and livestock organic operation may be used.

ARTICLE 173. In the case preventive measures and the practices established in the prior article are not sufficient for pest control and materials or substances permitted are not available; one material or one substance provided with the registration in the Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risks may be used for the same purpose to be applied in the processing facilities, and shall be limited to urgent circumstances when the organic certified product is at imminent risk of adulteration due to the presence of pests.

The application shall be performed by trained personnel and there shall not be organic product in the area or site to be treated.

ARTICLE 174. Prior to the application of prohibited materials in the processing facilities, the operator shall notify the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, as applicable, providing the identification number of Organic Operator including supporting technical justification, with information indicating the specific areas where the application shall take place and the pests to be controlled; and this shall be registered or documented for the organic inspection process. In the case the Organic Operator does not comply with the requested information referred to in this Agreement, the Secretariat, the body approved or authorized by the Secretariat shall immediately inform the organic operator; thus, the Organic Operator shall amend the prevention made, if opposite the request shall be dismissed.

ARTICLE 175. Fumigation with methyl bromide, aluminum phosphide or any other fumigant not included in Table 2 of ANNEX 1 of the National List in the processing facilities is prohibited.

ARTICLE 176. The use of pesticides in the form of fogging in facilities where organic products can be contaminated is prohibited.

SECTION IV

PACKAGING AND BOTTLING

ARTICLE 177. All the packaging and bottling materials shall be of food degree and shall be appropriately designed to protect the organic integrity of the processed product, they shall be free from substances and/or materials prohibited that jeopardize the organic integrity of the product.

ARTICLE 178. The use of packaging and bottling materials used which had contained conventional agricultural products, or coming from methods excluded, as well as the use of bottles that contain lead solder is prohibited. Welding and sheet made from 95% tin and welding with food degree free from cadmium are permitted.

ARTICLE 179. All packaging and bottling materials shall protect the organic integrity of the product. The outside print or label of the product or outside packaging shall use non-toxic inks and adhesives and shall not be in contact with the organic product.

ARTICLE 180. For packaging and bottling, materials that in their manufacture, use or discard reduce to the minimum the negative effects on the environment or which have been manufactured with renewable, biodegradable materials or in its case for the packaging of recyclables, shall be preferably used.

SECTION V

PRODUCT FLOW REGISTRATION

ARTICLE 181. In the processing plan there shall be records of the entry of raw material in the most detailed manner according to the form established by the operator, as well as the inventory in storages, amounts of processed product per working day and per lots and exit records of the processed product.

ARTICLE 182. Each process plan shall be provided with the registration forms or logs designed by the operators and where they shall indicate the movements of raw material, the use of equipment and materials used in the plant.

ARTICLE 183. All type of records, including accounting records related with products certified as organic, shall be organized in such a way that they allow to clearly know the product flow from the raw material operator to the distribution system of the organic processed product.

ARTICLE 184. All the records for product tracking shall be available during the organic inspection or audit process, which shall be attached to the Organic Plan.

SECTION VI

PARALLEL PROCESSING

ARTICLE 185. Operators processing both organic and conventional products (parallel processing) shall demonstrate to the organic certifier a reliable product separation system. The processing of organic ingredients shall be conducted only after cleaning or purging the production equipment. The effectiveness of the cleaning measures shall be controlled and recorded.

ARTICLE 186. Separation of organic product from the conventional product shall be ensured during all the process stages: raw material entry, storage, process times, storage of final or processed product.

ARTICLE 187. All the records and documents that state the separation of organic from conventional product shall be available for organic inspection, which shall be attached to the Organic Plan.

ARTICLE 188. If parallel processing is occasional, before starting the processing of organic product, a notice shall be given 72 hours in advance to the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, as the case may be, including the identification number of Organic Operator and indicating the product to be processed. In case the Organic Operator does not comply with the requested information referred to in this Agreement, the Secretariat, the body approved or acknowledged by the Secretariat shall immediately inform the Organic Operator. Consequently, the Organic Operator shall amend the prevention made, if opposite, the request shall be dismissed.

ARTICLE 189. All the measures to ensure the identification of lots, to protect the integrity of organic products and to prevent mixture with non-organic product shall be taken.

SECTION VII STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

ARTICLE 190. The storage and transportation of the organic products must be made without affecting its organic integrity and the organic products must be identified clearly and unmistakably both in storage and transportation.

ARTICLE 191. Operators whose activity is wholesale and/or retail sale shall ensure that organic bulk products are transported in appropriate packaging, containers, or vehicles that prevent the substitution of their contents, avoid any possible mixture or exchange with non-organic products or deterioration of the organic product, and must have a label or identification and/or documentation in which the following information is mentioned:

- I. The operator's name and address, and if it were different, that of the owner or seller of the product;
- II. The name of the product, its description, along with the reference that it is an organic product;
- III. The name or code number of the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, person in charge of the operator's certification, and
- IV. If applicable, the lot identification code or that convened with the body that follows up the organic certification and that allows to link the lot with the documentary accounts.

The information referred to on previous fractions can also be presented on an organic control document or its equivalent accompanying the shipment, provided that said document can be related so that it presents no doubt with the product's transportation container, vessel or vehicle. This control document should include information related to the supplier or carrier, or both where appropriate, when requested.

ARTICLE 192. Closing the containers, vessels or vehicles will not be required when:

- I. The transportation is made by two retail operators subjected to the organic control system, and
- II. The products are accompanied by a document containing the information demanded on the previous article.

The sender and recipient operator must maintain documentary records on such transportation operations, same that should be available to approve or acknowledged organic certification bodies approved, or to the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 193. When receiving finished products from other processing or transformation units, the closing of the packaging or container and their compliance with article 191 of this Agreement must be checked and verify that the information on the label or identification and documents accompanying the product correspond. The information must be recorded to comply with this Agreement, which could be checked during organic audit or inspection.

SECTION VIII MARKETING

ARTICLE 194. For those natural or legal persons or operators whose activity is marketing organic products, they should be subjected to a control system and prove that the organic integrity is maintained, according to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 195. The trader must make sure that the used storage rooms are available during organic inspection or supervision. When such facilities are outside of Mexico, these should be subjected to control from a body approved by the Secretariat or by the country of origin when an equivalence agreement exists.

ARTICLE 196. The trader must implement records that allow the organic inspection to verify the traceability of the organic product, as well as develop the flow of every marketed, exported or imported organic product lot and, other aspects mentioned herein.

ARTICLE 197. During the organic inspection, the seller shall show their documentation and documentation related to the storage facilities, including those facilities contracted with a third party. In this case, the organic inspector, based on a risk analysis, shall verify the organic integrity of the facilities and their products.

ARTICLE 198. The finished organic products must be marketed in suitable containers or vessels and that impede its contents substitution. The containers must show the trader's identification and some numeric or code system that allows to recognize or identify said lot with its control documentation or equivalent.

TITLE III

REFERENCES ON THE LABELING AND PROPERTIES DECLARATION

ARTICLE 199. According to what is established on articles 6 fraction X subsection B and C; 30 and 32 of the Organic Products Law, the general aspects and specifications for the use of the Organic term or its synonyms on the labeling of the organic products are established.

ARTICLE 200. For fresh or unprocessed products, the labeling or advertisement of marketed products with organic denomination must comply with the following aspects:

I. A "100% organic" product must contain 100% of ingredients organically produced under this Agreement, excluding water and salt. Substances listed in tables 3, 4 and 5 of the National List (Annex 1) shall not be used.

II. An "organic" product shall contain at least 95% of organically produced ingredients under this Agreement, excluding water and salt. It can contain up to 5% of ingredients included in Tables 3, 4 and/or 5 of the National List, provided that they are not commercially available in an organic form.

ARTICLE 201. The operator shall indicate on the label of organic products the approval or acknowledgement control code issued by the certifier, the certificate number or operator code, and the statement that it is "Free of Genetically Modified Organisms" or "Non-GMO" or "Produced without GMOs".

ARTICLE 202. The distinctive use will be made according the General Usage Rules that the Secretariat issues by means of applicable dispositions.

ARTICLE 203. The organic products must have an identification system through labels, books, records and/or indications that show a clear separation and that avoid every possible mix with other products than organic and allow traceability of the product.

ARTICLE 204. For processed and packaged products, the operator must declare the following in their labels:

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| In order to declare that the product is: | "100% organic" |
| The product | Must contain 100% of ingredients organically produced pursuant to this Agreement, excluding water and salt. |
| The label MUST: | Show the term "100% organic." Show the list of organic ingredients. Identify the name and address of the manufacturer (packer, distributor, importer, processor, etc.) of the final product followed by the statement: "Certified organic by..." or a similar sentence, followed by the name of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification. It is not enough to use only the seals of the certification body to fulfill this requirement. |
| The label CAN: | Bear the National and/or Secretariat Seal, the seal of the approved organic certification body or the seal of the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification. Show the business address, website or telephone number of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification. |
| In order to declare that the product is: | "Organic" (or a similar statement pursuant to Article 3, section XII of the Organic Products Law) |

| | |
|---|---|
| The product: | <p>Must contain at least 95% of organic ingredients.</p> <p>Can contain up to 5% of ingredients included in tables 3, 4 and/or 5 of the National List (Annex 1) if they are not commercially available in an organic form.</p> <p>Must be free of prohibited substances.</p> <p>Must not contain added sulfites.</p> |
| The label MUST: | <p>Show the term "organic."</p> <p>Show a list of ingredients. Water and salt included as ingredients shall not be identified as organic.</p> <p>Include the name and address of the manufacturer (packer, distributor, importer, processor, etc.) of the final product, followed by the statement: "Certified organic by...", or a similar sentence, followed by the name of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification. It is not enough to use only the seals of the certification body to fulfill this requirement.</p> |
| The label CAN: | <p>Bear the National and/or Secretariat Seal, the seal of the approved organic certification body or the seal of the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.</p> <p>Show the business address, website or telephone number of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.</p> |
| In order to declare that the product is: | "Made with..." or "Prepared with..." X organic ingredients (or a similar statement) |
| The product: | <p>Shall contain at least 70% of organic ingredients, excluding water and salt.</p> <p>Shall not contain added sulfites, except for wine (which can contain sulfur dioxide) and can contain up to 30% of non-organic agricultural ingredients, as long as it is not the same organic and conventional ingredient or other substance, including yeast, excluding those permitted in Tables 3, 4 and/or 5 of the National List (Annex 1).</p> |
| The label MUST: | <p>Show the term "Made or Prepared with organic" (specific ingredients or food groups).</p> <p>Show "X% organic" or "X% of organic ingredients" and the business address and website or telephone number of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.</p> |
| In order to declare that the product: | Contains some organic ingredients |
| The product: | <p>May contain less than 70% of organic ingredients, excluding water and salt.</p> <p>May contain agricultural ingredients not organically produced, provided that they are not the same organic and conventional ingredient and other substances, including yeasts.</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| The label: | <p>Shall show neither the term “organic” on the main label (front label) nor the national seal.</p> <p>Shall identify in the list of ingredients the presence of some organic ingredient in order to inform the consumer.</p> <p>Shall not include logos, seals or trademarks of the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat that certified the organic ingredient contained in the product.</p> |
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ARTICLE 205. The general labeling specifications of agricultural and livestock food and drinks, general systems of measurement units, commercial information and amount declaration, distribution and generic content of the information on labels, will adjust to what is established by the current Mexican Official Standard.

TITLE IV ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

CHAPTER I

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 206. It will be the responsibility of the body approved or acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, the issuing, maintenance, broadening, suspension of the granted organic certification, and cannot delegate said responsibility to persons or entities external to the bodies.

ARTICLE 207. The operations that comply with this Agreement will be eligible for organic certification, for which the operator must demonstrate to have control over all the activities developing on the producer unit and that the organic integrity of the products is maintained.

ARTICLE 208. The decision to certify or not a product as organic, will be judged by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, based on the received information from the requesting operators and obtained during the organic inspection process which should be enough and pursuant of the Law, its Regulation and this Agreement. They should be backed up by every documentary record of the operator and provide or be objective evidence that support the evaluation and the decision made by the certification body.

ARTICLE 209. The certification issued by the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification will be according to the scope of its approval or acknowledgment and shall observe at all times the provisions on articles 26 and 27 on the Law Regulations.

ARTICLE 210. The coordinator of the organic certification committee of the certification body shall be a professional with minimum experience of 3 years in organic matter and shall have the following responsibilities:

- I. Check the files and coordinate the timely issuing of recommendations;
- II. Coordinate that the issuing of recommendations are only in three ways; you can qualify to be certified with improvement recommendations; certification is denied by indicating the noncompliance and/or locate in conversion, or certification is granted without recommendations each shall contain the technical, resolvent and resulting aspects as minimum. In case of minor noncompliances, the certification may indicate conditions to fulfill in the certification renewal.

The granted certificate shall include the identification number as organic operator

III. Propose the participation of a Secretariat official, in case of requests of operators with complex, polemic and/or conflictive files, for support and where appropriate final opinion, or

IV. Coordinate so that the certification requests resolution is made under the following principles, as minimum:

- a) Review that the certification requests are duly requested and signed by the applicant or its authorized representative;
- b) Make sure that the scope of the requested certification is defined, and

c) Where applicable, propose to request the applicant to provide the necessary information for attending its request.

ARTICLE 211. To apply a participatory certification, the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat shall provide the operators with a certificate duly signed by the assigned responsible person for it; where, besides containing what is stated on article 26 and 17 of the Law Regulation, shall indicate the type of activity or subsection of this Agreement, with which it complies.

ARTICLE 212. When dealing with the rectification of a foreign product made by another similar body, with which Mexico has no equivalence agreement, all the necessary measures must be taken to verify the scope, the validity of the previously issued certificate, and the applicability of the certification which confines it, as well as any other information regarding the competence of the body who made said certification.

The rectification shall only proceed when the certification requirements are met and previously verified, the correction of the conditions or established noncompliances in the prior certification.

The body must always document the noncompliances or the conditions under which they were certificated and their resolution.

ARTICLE 213. The information of the operators' status as retired or in conversion certificates, must be available or accessible to the public.

CHAPTER II

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE BY THE SECRETARIAT OR THE APPROVED CERTIFICATION

BODY SECTION I

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

ARTICLE 214. Every organic operator interested in:

- a) Certifying their organic operation, renewing or extending their certification or start the conversion period, shall apply using the Q-SQ-F-01 format or another format used by the approved or acknowledged body.
- b) Recertifying their organic operation, they shall apply using the O-SW-F-02 format or another format used by the approved or acknowledged body.
- c) Retroactive acknowledgement of the conversion period, shall apply using the O-SQ-F-01 format or another format used by the approved certifier or acknowledged body, attaching the records or analysis of the soil and/or plants, and other documentary evidence, which may be accompanied by additional information relevant to the application paperwork.

To the request forms referred to on subparagraphs a) and c), the Organic Plan must be attached additionally, adhering to what is prescribed by this Agreement, indicating the agricultural and livestock activity interested on certifying or reduction of the conversion period.

The above shall be requested from the Secretariat, the approved certification body or body recognized by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 215. The Secretariat, the approved body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, shall respond to the organic operator within 30 business days. If the organic operator fails to comply with the requested information referred to in this Agreement, the Secretariat, or the approved body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, shall notify the operator within 20 business days about the missing information. The organic operator shall have 20 business days to correct the mistake, otherwise the certification application shall be denied or the operator shall be put in a conversion period if he or she fails to comply with the certification requirements.

The validity of the procedures stated on the subparagraphs of the previous article shall have a maximum validity of a year from the issue date.

ARTICLE 216. The approved certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat responsible for following up on the certification may take samples to detect unauthorized substances or materials or inputs in organic production, or incompatible with organic production.

ARTICLE 217. The operator shall present along with the request, the organic plan, adhering to what is prescribed on this Agreement, accordingly, or the form applied by the Secretariat approved or acknowledged body, which shall contain at least the following:

- I. Description of practices under organic methods and procedures to make and maintain, including the frequency with which it will be done;
- II. The list and systematic record of used substances and materials, indicating their composition, source, place of usage and available commercial documentation and supply label;
- III. Description of continuous practices of preservation established on the units, to verify that the Organic Plan is being implemented effectively, as well as the future intentions and about the improvements in every production area;
- IV. Full description of the implemented record system;
- V. Description of administrative practices and physical barriers established by the operator to maintain the products' organic integrity and prevent the mix of organic and non-organic products in a parallel operation; and
- VI. Other information that according to forms on organic plans, is required to comply with this Agreement, of the organic operation activities.

ARTICLE 218. For any modification of the granted certification, the Secretariat or the certification body shall have the corresponding evaluation procedures.

ARTICLE 219. The certification applicant operator who outsources any of the organic operation activities to a third party, the third party shall perform the conformity operations with this Agreement and the outsourced activities shall be subjected to the same certification and control system.

SECTION II CERTIFIED OPERATIONS.

ARTICLE 220. The Secretariat and the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to issue a participatory certification shall keep the list updated, including the names and addresses of the certified, suspended or delisted operators.

ARTICLE 221. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, can effect random organic inspection control visits, preferably without previous notice, based on a general evaluation of the risk of noncompliance with this Agreement, taking into account the results from previous certifications, the amount of affected products, the product substitution risks or third party complaints; at least once a year. For the case of a trader he can include a full physical inspection of the facilities and the trader's documentation and, if applicable, of a selection of other facilities and storage used by the trader.

ARTICLE 221.2. In order to meet the minimum requirements of organic inspection and preventive measures of the control system, the approved or acknowledged certifiers shall inspect 100% of the organic operations for certification purposes.

Regarding the annual inspection program for surveillance purposes, they shall do the following:

- I. Based on the risk analysis, in addition to planned inspections they shall conduct at least an additional 10% of random inspections of certified organic operators, and
- II. In addition to those random inspections, of the total number of planned inspections for certification purposes, at least 10% of them shall be conducted without notice.

The approved or acknowledged certifier shall document the inspection frequency and selection criteria. If such inspections cannot be conducted without notice, it shall be written down on the inspection report as set forth in Article 257 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 221.3. Inspections conducted by the approved or acknowledged certifier based on the risk analysis shall meet the organic inspection requirements and the control system preventive measures related to plants and/or animals and their products, including unprocessed collection or capture of plants and animals, as set forth in Chapter V, Section 1 of this Agreement. In addition, in order to determine the risk level, they shall observe, as a preventive control measure, the following criteria, which shall include, as long as they coincide with the provisions of this Agreement:

- I. The total number of certified organic producers and their sphere of activity;

- II. The time spent in organic production;
- III. The area and geographic location of the organic production units;
- IV. The production unit number according to its sphere of activity;
- V. The dispersal of production units in a group of producers;
- VI. The economic significance of the product (supply, demand, value, disease or plague susceptibility);
- VII. Buffers to avoid contamination at the production unit;
- VIII. Water availability and supply;
- IX. The type of production system in adjacent production units;
- X. The existence of parallel production;
- XI. The complexity of the value chain; amount of produced and/or processed products;
- XII. Any noncompliance record;
- XIII. Any reports;
- XIV. Consistency of the information provided during the certification process;
- XV. The number of providers of raw materials and/or the origin thereof; and any change in or the incorporation of new providers;
- XVI. Any positive test results for prohibited substances;
- XVII. Consistency in mass balance;
- XVIII. Consistencies in the records provided as evidence for traceability purposes;
- XIX. Incorporation of new producers into a group of producers or plots, in the case of individual producers;
- XX. Outsourcing of processing plants or contracted factories, and
- XXI. Internal risk analysis and results thereof.

The certifier shall estimate the risk level, taking into account at least the above sections and the associated risk levels as follows:

a) Low risk: Unintentional noncompliance

Failure to observe the Organic Products Law and other related legislation of administrative nature, without threatening the organic integrity of the certified product or the entire certified organic operation.

b) Medium risk: Unintentional or intentional noncompliance

A threat to the integrity of a certified organic product or to a given batch of a certified product, without threatening the organic integrity of the entire certified organic operation.

c) High risk: Unintentional or intentional noncompliance

A threat to the integrity of a certified organic product or to a given batch of a certified product, also threatening the organic integrity of the entire certified organic operation.

Based on the scores, the certifier shall plan either additional random inspections, unannounced inspections, and/or external inspections of a group of producers.

ARTICLE 222. The Organic Operator records shall serve so that the certification body or control authority can, respectively, identify and prove the following:

- I. The organic product supplier and, if different, the seller, exporter or importer;
- II. The nature and amounts of the organic products entered into the unit and, if applicable, of all the acquired materials or supplies, as well as their usage, and, if applicable, their formulation or that of the food;
- III. The nature and amount of stored organic products in the storage facilities;
- IV. The nature, amounts and receivers of buyers, except final consumers;
- V. The product conditions at the moment of reception of the organic products and demonstrate the balance between incoming and out coming organic products, and

VI. In case of the operators who do not store or physically handle the organic products, they should record the nature and amounts of the purchased and sold organic products, indicate their suppliers and buyers, except final consumers

ARTICLE 223. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification shall inspect or, where appropriate, monitor the operators according to what is established on article 39 of the Organic Products Law Regulation, who shall dispose the records of their organic operation during no less than 5 years, after their creation; having access to them during normal working hours, for their revision, supplying a copy of those determining compliance with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 224. The performance of activities not allowed according to this Agreement, or any action indicated on CHAPTER III of TITLE VI shall be considered as serious noncompliance, and the operations shall go through a conversion period.

ARTICLE 225. The certification applicant operator should:

- I. Allow the Secretariat approved or acknowledged certification body, access to every part of the unit and every premises, as well as records and their pertinent backups;
- II. Facilitate the Secretariat approved or acknowledged certification body with all the information considered reasonably necessary for organic inspection;
- III. Present, at the request of the Secretariat approved or acknowledged certification body, the results of quality guarantee or quality control programs, and
- IV. When dealing with vegetables or animals or imported products, the importers and first receivers shall present the backup information and documentation.

CHAPTER III PARTICIPATORY CERTIFICATION

ARTICLE 226. In terms of the provisions in article 24 of the Law and the diverse 14 of its Regulation, the Secretariat can acknowledge the participatory certification system, the family production producers and/or small producers that comply with the following in an organized manner:

- I. Be directly involved in a production and offer initiative, through one of these mechanisms: markets, marketplace, direct deliveries to consumers or another who seeks to apply this system;
- II. To be legally established as an organization so as to allow them to operate the participatory organic certification system;
- III. Form a minimal human resources and documentation structure to guarantee their processes and consumers' trust, and
- IV. To have a place to offer, sell and/or deliver their products directly to the consumer or final user. The organization shall implement the necessary mechanisms to deliver their products to the national market while ensuring their organic integrity, provided that they are produced, prepared or stored in connection with the final point of sale. Such products shall not be imported.

ARTICLE 226 Bis. The acknowledgement granted by SENASICA to the Participatory Organic Certification Systems shall last 5 years.

SENASICA shall regularly inspect the organizations acknowledged to operate a participatory organic certification system in order to make sure that they comply with the requirements and provisions under which they received such acknowledgement.

ARTICLE 227. For the operation of the participatory certification system, the group of producers shall form a Participatory Organic Certification Committee that will act based on the principles of: transparency, decentralization, horizontally, participation, trust, learning, food sovereignty, adaptability and simplification. The Committee may include the participation of consumers, technicians and civil society who are acquainted with this Agreement.

The Participatory Organic Certification Committee shall be integrated by at least three people and will have the responsibility to guarantee and ensure the compliance pursuant this Agreement.

ARTICLE 228. The Participatory Organic Certification Committee's duties shall be the following:

- I. To define, establish and apply concrete procedures for the participatory organic certification according to regional social and agro ecological characteristics;
- II. Make the questionnaire that must contain at least the following information: history of cultivation and activities made in the agriculture production unit and/or processing unit; organic management Plan; social data determined by each Committee; and sketch and/or map of the production and/or processing unit;
- III. Make accompaniment visit;
- IV. Guarantee the compliance of the participatory certification principles, and
- V. Other duties that may be developed such as participating in the experience interchange at national or international level, offer training and/or support for the Participatory Organic Certification to other Committees without enough experience, share technical information, among others.

ARTICLE 229. The committee shall review the documents provided by the interested party. Such review shall be conducted by at least one member of the Committee. Based on the analysis of the operator's documents, the Committee shall inspect the site and indicate to the operator the minimum basic elements to be observed during the visit.

- I. In case of compliance, according to the type of product to certify, with this Agreement, an accompaniment visit shall be scheduled.
- II. In case of noncompliance, the Committee shall notify the interested party in writing pointing out the noncompliances.

ARTICLE 230. The Committee shall plan an organic inspection at the production unit, which shall include:

- I. An inspection tour of the vegetable, collection, animal production or processing production units, as the case may be;
- II. Check the compliance with the guidelines for organic operation according to the applicable subsections;
- III. Verify the basic points of organic and hygiene control in the production unit;
- IV. Verify the use of supplies, additives, among others;
- V. Verify the correct product identification and labeling;
- VI. If required, share experiences and knowledge between the operator and the Committee members for improving the operation. The visits to the production units are not conceived as inspections, but like learning opportunities through the exchange of experiences and knowledge among the actors who are part of a constant learning process among operators, technicians and operators, and operators and consumers, to ensure the maximum organic integrity of the production units as well as the development of trust relationships between them, and
- VII. The Committee shall complete an organic inspection report indicating every compliance or non-compliance and shall have one month afterwards to deliver either a participatory organic certificate or a certification denial letter.

ARTICLE 231. The Committee, during their periodic meeting, shall assess the applications together with the relevant organic inspection report and shall decide whether each applicant is either: a certified operator, an operator with minor non-compliances, or an operator with major non-compliances. This latter shall receive a certification denial letter noting all of the non-compliances.

The participatory certification body shall issue a participatory organic certificate as stated in this Agreement once it has been determined that the operator meets the requirements indicated herein.

CHAPTER IV SPECIAL SITUATIONS

ARTICLE 232. Producers conducting organic production practices may market their products without claiming themselves as organic or the like pursuant to this Agreement, as long as such commercialization is made directly from producer to consumer.

ARTICLE 233. Under this Agreement, the Secretariat or its approved or acknowledged bodies may allow the completion of exceptional activities intended to counteract the effects of catastrophes like exceptional meteorological conditions, a plague outbreak, vegetable or animal sickness, the presence of contaminants, fire, or any other condition as stated in this Agreement.

The continuity of the organic condition of the certified operators' units or facilities or products will be determined with input from the Secretariat, which may request a technical opinion from the Group of Experts of the National Council for Organic Production. In any case, authorized exceptional activities are intended to restore as soon as possible the organic condition of the products and/or production units.

ARTICLE 234. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, must consider the following control aspects:

I. In addition to what is established on the Law, its Regulation and this Agreement the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, must guarantee that the precautionary and control measures that appear on this chapter are applied to the operators subjected to organic certification. Likewise the appropriate confidentiality concerning information and data obtained in the exercise of their organic inspection and organic certification to people different from the operators and the surveillance of the control instance responsible in the Secretariat, must be kept;

II. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification may apply corrective measures in cases of noncompliance with this Agreement as established in fraction VI of article 18 of the Law Regulation;

III. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification, has the responsibility to supervise the retirement of the organic term or its synonyms of a determined product, lot, or all the production affected by the irregularity in the application of this Agreement, and

IV. It can establish corrective measures in cases where a certified operator is marketing products denominated as organic without the respective certification, such as retirement of the organic term or its synonyms of a determined product, lot, or all the production affected, for a period subjected to the judgment of the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.

CHAPTER V

MINIMUM ORGANIC INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS AND CONTROL SYSTEM PREVENTIVE MEASURES

SECTION I

CONCERNING VEGETABLES AND/OR ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS, INCLUDING VEGETABLES AND ANIMALS OF RECOLLECTION OR CAPTURE WITHOUT PROCESSING

ARTICLE 235. The organic inspection shall be made by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat, who will be identified henceforth as "the inspector" making the inspection activity in: the production or exploit unit, including their plots; pastures, exercise and fresh air access zones for animals; livestock facilities; premises for storage of vegetable/animal products, raw material, supplies, manure storage, as the case may be, verifying records, proof documents, clear animal identification and every necessary information for the development of the organic inspection

ARTICLE 236. The inspector shall verify that the operator who processes, packs and/or markets in the same unit, maintains total control of his production.

ARTICLE 237. The inspector shall verify that within the Organic Production units the operator does not produce, conventionally, vegetables or animals of the same variety, species or breed that those produced organically.

ARTICLE 238. The inspector shall verify the application of agronomic practices for soil protection and that the vegetable recollection are free of prohibited substances contamination sources, and that the operator makes evident in his record system the guarantees or records of the producers, or third parties if surrounding owners according to what is established on the subsection corresponding wild recollection.

ARTICLE 239. The inspector shall verify on the field that the information contained on the Organic Plan corresponds to what is stated in it and that the obtained products comply with what is established on this Agreement.

ARTICLE 240. During the inspections conducted by the certification body of a Grower Group (GG) under their control, the following criteria shall be considered:

- I. To verify the ICS of the GG and the completion of an annual internal inspection of all GG members;
- II. To inspect at least 10 producers according to their level of risk, for GGs with fewer than 100 producers, and
- III. In order to calculate the number of producers to be inspected, the GG's risk level shall be considered as follows:
 - a). For GGs with a LOW risk level, the square root of the number of producers shall be applied.
 - b) For GGs with a MEDIUM risk, the square root of the number of producers, multiplied by a factor of 1.2 shall be applied.
 - c) For GGs with a HIGH risk level, the square root of the number of producers multiplied by a factor of 1.4 shall be applied.

During external inspections, the certification body shall review the records and organic techniques applied or managed during the production or processing, as well as the control applied in the harvest, collection, storage, packaging or sale, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 241. The inspector shall verify that on the operator's records is a list of the substances, materials, supplies among others, used in the organic operation.

ARTICLE 242. The inspector shall verify that there is no raw material storage different from those whose use is compatible with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 243. When so established by the Secretariat or the approved or acknowledged certification body, the inspector can make random inspections to an operator, especially in situation where may exist specific risks or product substitution of the Organic Production by those of conventional origin.

ARTICLE 244. The inspector, according to his capacity and need, may take samples to send them to a laboratory for prohibited substances residue determination when certain elements are detected, such as agrochemical bags or containers, null activity of beneficial organisms that indicates the possible use of substances, ingredient materials and supplies that are not included on the National List of permitted substances.

ARTICLE 245. The inspector shall verify any change in description or concrete measures adopted by the operator on the production or organic management, during its activity or when registering it on the Organic Plan.

SECTION II

VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL PRODUCT PROCESSING

ARTICLE 246. The organic inspection should be made according to the Organic Plan presented by the applicant operator, where is contemplated a full revision of the facilities used for processing, packaging, storage and transportation accordingly, and where appropriate, a selection of the other storage facilities used, of the organic products before and after the transformation or processing; the necessary measures adopted by the operator to guarantee the compliance of the dispositions of this Agreement.

Likewise he shall verify the records and all necessary documents to back up the product flow from its income, storage, processing, process performance and product exiting the plant for sale and the necessary information for the development of the organic inspection. In case the use of unauthorized substances or supplies according to this Agreement is detected, samples must be taken for their analysis in a laboratory.

ARTICLE 247. During the inspection will be verified that on the information contained on the registry system there is origin, type, and amounts of the organic agricultural and livestock products entering the processing plant; the processed organic products and receivers to the processing plant; the ingredients, additives or processing aids that entered the plant and the composition of the processed products.

In case that at the plant conventional products are processed, packaged or stored, the organic inspector shall verify that it is on separate, conditioned, labeled premises or areas, for the storage of each type of product, before or after storage; and to confirm or verify that on the processing record system it is made by lots or full series physically separate or at different processing times, caring after the organic integrity of the processed products.

ARTICLE 248. If the organic products processing is sporadic, the inspector will check the records or verify in person that the process complies with this Agreement regarding the organic processing activities.

ARTICLE 249. The inspector shall confirm physically or by means of the record system, that all the measures for the identification of the processed organic product are met, that is has not been mixed with a different product and that its organic integrity is not compromised.

ARTICLE 250. During the organic inspection will be confirmed physically or by means of the records that the organic products are transported on containers or vessels; clean or new, and that their closing impedes content substitution. The containers must have an identification system that shows that it is an organic product.

ARTICLE 251. It will be verified that the identification system of the transported organic products contains at least; name and address of the processing responsible person and the receiver. The result of this investigation must be compared with the record described in this chapter.

ARTICLE 252. If the made inspection concludes that it does not meet the requirements of this Agreement or there is evidence that the product comes from a non-organic operator, it will not be able to be marketed as organic, only as conventional.

SECTION III

ORGANIC PRODUCTS TRADERS

ARTICLE 253. The organic inspection should be made according to the Organic Plan presented by the applicant operator, where is contemplated a revision of the facilities it has, and where appropriate, a selection of the other storage facilities it uses, its marketing, export and import activities, indicating the destination of the exported products and the origin of the products imported as organic; the necessary measures adopted by the operator to guarantee the compliance of the dispositions of this Agreement.

Check that on the service hiring with third parties for services or facilities, exists the commitment to perform the hired activities, in compliance with this Agreement, which should be contemplated on the records.

ARTICLE 254. The inspector shall verify the records and all necessary documents to back up the product flow, to know every lot of marketed, exported or imported organic product that includes origin, type of product, volume and lots; and the information about the conditions of product transportation, from the trader's storages to the buyer's storage to make sure that the organic integrity is taken care of; as well as the organic certificates of the product(s). In case the use of unauthorized substances or supplies according to this Agreement is detected, samples must be taken for their analysis in a laboratory.

ARTICLE 255. The inspector shall make sure, where applicable that the trader has the control document or its equivalent of the organic products to be marketed or their shipment in international commerce.

The inspector shall verify that the organic products are separated from the conventional ones and that the operator has the necessary measures to guarantee the identification of each lot of organic product to market.

ARTICLE 256. The inspector shall verify that the organic products that are marketed are in appropriate containers or vessels, guaranteeing that the closing of these containers impedes the contents substitution, same that should have an identification from the trader and a number or code system that allows to identify said lot with its control or transaction document, except they are organic products that have not gone through a transformation or processing process and that are directly sold to the final consumer.

ARTICLE 257. Derived from the inspection activities of the organic operation according to what is established on this chapter, the inspector should make a report that portrays the result of compliance or noncompliance of what is indicated on this Agreement, which shall serve as reference for the purpose of organic certification or control system.

SECTION IV

INSPECTION OR SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM, SAMPLING, ANALYSIS AND LOSS OF THE ORGANIC QUALITY

ARTICLE 257 Bis. Agricultural products to be sold or labelled as "100% organic," "organic" or "made with organic ingredients" may be inspected or sampled to test for residues of prohibited substances, and certified operators shall make them available for examination by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 257 Ter. The Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the body acknowledged by the Secretariat may take samples before or after the harvest of any product that is the result of agricultural or cattle farming activities in order to conduct a lab analysis and confirm the absence of prohibited substances or that it was not produced

using excluded methods. Samples may be taken of the soil, water, waste, seeds, vegetable tissue, vegetable or animal products, and/or processed products, amongst others.

ARTICLE 257 Quáter. The approved certification body shall take samples from at least 5% of certified operations, rounded to the nearest whole number, and conduct analyses of that number every year. The approved or acknowledged certification body who certifies fewer than thirty operations per year shall take samples and analyze at least one operation per year. The sample collection shall be done according to the provisions established for the sample collection, identification, handling and carrying to the approved, authorized, acknowledged, or technically able laboratory to conduct tests or analyses with state-of-art methods such as those described in the updated edition of the AOAC International Official Methods of Analysis, or with another current valid method, to determine the presence of contaminants in the agricultural products. Sample integrity shall be guaranteed.

ARTICLE 257 Quinquies. If an analysis of residues shows prohibited substances at levels higher than 5% of the maximum levels established by the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) for the specific residue or of an unavoidable environmental contaminant, it shall be reported to the Secretariat. Thereafter, the agricultural product shall not be sold, labelled or represented as organically produced. The Secretariat may investigate the certified operation to determine the cause of the contamination and the presence of residues of prohibited substances. It may also impose a sanction under the Law.

TITLE V

PRODUCT IMPORT THAT PRESENT EQUIVALENT GUARANTEES

ARTICLE 258. The imported products can be marketed on national markets as organic and equivalent terms as long as they comply with the following:

I. They were obtained under regulations related to this Agreement or under an organic program applied by other governments;

II. The operators were subject to control measures equivalent to those mentioned in the previous paragraph;

III. If the operators' activities, throughout all of their production, preparation and distribution stages carried out in the country of origin were subject to a control regime established in Chapter V of Title IV of this Agreement or pursuant to the control regime described in section I of this article; and

IV. If the product is protected by an organic control or equivalent document issued either by a competent authority or a body included in the control lists for countries with which there is an equivalency, or a body approved by the Secretariat under Articles 33, 34, 35 and 36 of the Law, confirming that the product complies with the conditions set forth in this section.

ARTICLE 259. For organic inspection purposes, the control document shall accompany merchandise to the facilities of the first recipient; the importer shall keep the control document and the certificate available for the approved organic certifier under the equivalence agreements.

ARTICLE 260. The Secretariat can recognize the countries of origin whose production system complies with the production principles and rules established on this Agreement. In the equivalence evaluation the CAC/GL guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius shall be taken into account when examining the acknowledgment requests, the Secretariat shall request the interested country all the necessary information and shall be able to entrust the function of in situ examination of the regulations in terms of organic products or its equivalent and the applied control measures in said country of origin.

Where appropriate, the evaluation report shall contain information made about the documentary inspections, the audits at the office, including critical facilities, and the audits in person, according to the risk.

ARTICLE 261. Before March 31 of every year, or within the term established on the equivalence agreement, the Secretariat shall request the acknowledged countries of origin a concise report, pertaining to the application and compliance with the established control dispositions in said countries.

Based on the information contained in said reports, the Secretariat shall watch over the timely supervision of the acknowledged countries, periodically reviewing their acknowledgement. The nature of the supervision shall be determined on the basis of a risk assessment of there being irregularities or infringements regarding the dispositions established on this Agreement.

ARTICLE 262. The Secretariat shall examine all the acknowledgment requests presented by a control authority or body from the country of origin of the organic products.

ARTICLE 263. During the process of acknowledgment requests re-evaluation, the control authority or body shall be subjected to in situ periodic evaluation. The Secretariat can entrust experts with the function of examining in situ the regulations on the subject of organic products or their equivalent and the control measures of those interested.

TITLE VI

LIST OF SUBSTANCES AND CRITERIA FOR SUBSTANCES AND MATERIALS EVALUATION FOR ORGANIC OPERATION

ARTICLE 264. As set forth in Articles 28 of the Organic Products Law and 40 of its Regulation, in order to include new substances, materials, products, inputs, methods and ingredients referred to by their generic name in the National List, with or without restrictions, they shall be assessed by and fulfill the conditions of the following Chapter. If a generic substance, material, product, input, method, or ingredient is not included in the National List, it shall be considered as prohibited, apart from those mentioned in Chapter III of this Title.

CHAPTER I

EVALUATION CRITERIA TO CONFORM THE PERMITTED LIST UNDER ORGANIC METHODS

ARTICLE 265. As set forth in Articles 29 of the Organic Products Law and 41 of its Regulation, generic names of substances, materials, products, inputs, methods and ingredients shall be assessed in order to be included in the National List (Annex 1) and show that they comply with the following general criteria:

I. To be compatible with the Organic Production principals under the sustainability approach, which shall be enough to come from an organic production and/or processing;

II. To be necessary for their intended use and the base of the need may derive from factors such as crop yield, organic product quality, environmental security, ecological protection, landscape, and human and animal wellbeing;

III. That its use does not result on, or contribute with, producing harmful or unacceptable effects on the environment, on biological or chemical interaction on the agro-ecosystem, including physiological effects of the substance on crops, livestock, soil organisms, when applicable, in the soil solubility rate; unacceptable contamination of the superficial or groundwater, air or soil during the manufacture, use, inappropriate application or material disposal;

IV. That its application has no harmful effects on human or animal health and quality of life;

V. That there are no authorized available alternatives on the National List, in sufficient amount or quality, to use under organic methods;

VI. When dealing with vegetable raw materials, they should come from sustainable exploitations whose harvest or extraction must not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem, not affect the environments stability or preservation of some species within the collection area, and

VII. The raw material from vegetable, animal, microbial or mineral origin can be subjected to the following processes:

a) Physical, such as precipitation, thermal method;

b) Mechanical, such as water, ethanol, vegetable or animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, nitrogen or carboxylic acids extraction, and refinement without chemical treatment, and

c) Biological/enzymatic, microbial such as fermentation, composting, among others.

The previous criteria should be applied altogether to protect the organic integrity of the productive unit and the product being treated.

ARTICLE 266. The specific evaluation criteria shall be based on the specific uses or applications, as:

I. Application to the soil or vegetables to maintain fertility or nutrition;

II. For management or ecological control of plagues, diseases, unwanted herbs of crops or vegetables;

III. For animal production, according to species and specific use or administration conditions;

IV. Aquaculture

V. Plants or processing facilities, and

VI. For the processing of organic products as ingredients, additives, elaboration, preparation and preservation aids of the processed organic products.

ARTICLE 267. Under Articles 29 of the Law and 41 of its Regulation, mixtures or combinations of substances, materials, products, inputs and/or ingredients of the National List shall be assessed to be permitted in the organic operation of agricultural and cattle farming activities and shall demonstrate that they comply with the following:

I. The generic name of the material, substance, product, input and/or ingredient that makes it up is included for that intended use in the tables of the National List (Annex 1);

II. If they are used in fertilizers, amendments, conditioners, nutrition, or as soil inoculants, they shall have the corresponding sanitary registration as plant nutrients, limited to those that require it under current regulations;

III. If they are used as agents for the ecological management of insects, fungi, viruses, bacteria, and/or weeds, they must have the corresponding sanitary registration for controlling pests, limited to those that require it under the current regulation;

IV. If they are used for plant or soil nutrition, they must present the applicable information included in Annex 2 of this Agreement. Their use in the organic operation may be restricted to specific conditions of use, application, and/or climate, regions, or products, amongst others;

V. If they are used for the ecological control or management of diseases or pests in vegetables or undesired weeds, they must present applicable information in Annex 2 of this Agreement. Their use in organic operations may be restricted to specific conditions of use, application, and/or climate, regions, or products, amongst others;

VI. If used as additives or elaboration aids in the preparation or preservation of food:

a) They can only be used if it has been demonstrated that, without them, it is impossible to produce or preserve the food, in case of additives, or produce the food, in case of elaboration aids, and that there are no other technologies that satisfy with this Agreement;

b) When the aforementioned substances are not available in sufficient amounts through such methods and technologies, then the inclusion of those substances that have been chemically synthesized in exceptional circumstances can be considered, and

c) Their use maintains the authenticity of the product, for which the consumers will not be deceived concerning the nature, substance and quality of the food, for which additives and elaboration aids do not reduce general product quality. For which, they should present the applicable information according to ANNEX 2 of this Agreement.

VII. When they are importation substances, materials, supplies, they should demonstrate with documentation that supports their use in the country of origin, in Spanish; or

VIII. That they have been produced and formulated or extracted from sustainable uses, in the country or abroad, according to the dispositions applicable on the subject.

IX. If they are used in aquaculture, their use in the organic operation shall be restricted to specific conditions of use, application, and/or climate, regions or products, amongst others;

X. If they are used for animal production, it shall depend on the specific species and conditions of use or management.

However, use conditions and restrictions shall adhere to the applicable regulation and under authorized conditions.

ARTICLE 268. At the Secretariat's request, the Council's Group of Experts shall assess under Articles 265 and 266 of this Agreement the substances, materials, products, inputs and ingredients referred to by their generic name and shall recommend use conditions and, if applicable, the limits on where the plants or their products, the animals or their products, can be applied. Otherwise, they shall recommend their withdrawal from organic production schemes.

[abrogated]

ARTICLE 269. As a reference for those interested in the organic production, the Secretariat shall release both on their website and SENASICA website the National List of materials, substances, products, inputs, methods and ingredients referred to by their generic name, which were assessed and qualified as permitted, with or without restrictions, for their use in the organic production and processing.

ARTICLE 270. Mixtures or combinations of substances, materials, products, inputs and ingredients of the National List assessed as permitted with or without restrictions may be shown with the inscription “Can be used in organic operations” depending on the relevant use.

ARTICLE 271. As for the materials, substances, products, inputs and ingredients referred to by their generic name and assessed and qualified either as permitted with or without restrictions or prohibited in the organic operation, the Department shall—with the previous opinion of the Group of Experts—issue the final decision and update the National List.

ARTICLE 272. If the materials, substances, products, inputs and ingredients included in the National List are made or formulated by organic operators for their own use, they shall comply with the conditions of use under which they are permitted in the National List. These products shall be verified by approved certification bodies or by the participatory organic certification system acknowledged by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 273. For a product derived from the mixture or combination of substances from the National List to be included in the “List of Formulations,” the mixtures or combinations of substances from the National List to be used in the agricultural organic operation, except for those mentioned in Article 272, shall be assessed under Article 275 of this Agreement and published by the Secretariat on their website as a reference for the interested parties.

If the organic operator needs to use some mixture or combination of substances from the National List in the course of the agricultural organic operation—one that is not included in the “List of Formulations”—the certifier shall be responsible for verifying that the mixture or combination of ingredients contained in the product complies with the requirement of organic production under Article 267 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 274. The National List issued by the Secretariat shall be updated regularly to include new substances, materials, products, inputs, methods and ingredients, or to modify the use of the existing ones, or to exclude others previously included in the National List (Annex 1). This shall be conducted pursuant to Article 275 of this Agreement.

CHAPTER II

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 275. As set forth in Articles 28 and 29 of the Law and 40 of the Regulation thereof, for those seeking the addition, elimination, and/or amendment of the use specifications of a substance, material, product, input, method, or ingredient, or mixtures or combinations thereof in the lists mentioned in Articles 264 and 273 of this Agreement, the interested party shall request consideration in a written and signed form, accompanied by the following documents:

I. When it comes to a mixture or combination with one or more substances, materials, products, inputs, methods or ingredients included in the National List (Annex 1), the interested party shall provide the relevant technical information, as set forth in Article 267 of this Agreement, for the related assessment, and

II. When it comes to materials, substances, products, inputs, or ingredients referred to by their generic name, it shall be necessary to submit the relevant technical information pursuant to Articles 265 and 266 of this Agreement, so that the Secretariat can assess them, with the previous opinion of the Group of Experts.

For sections I and II, if they are included in any international regulation of organic products, the corresponding technical information must be provided, emphasizing the importance of the inclusion on, amendment to or withdrawal from the list published by the Secretariat.

The aforementioned information must be submitted in an original document and, where the interested party requests an acknowledgement of receipt, a second copy must also be included.

Requests shall be processed as follows:

a) Each request receives a case identification number and is reviewed to see whether it complies with all of the requirements. If it does, it receives an assessment.

b) When the submitted information lacks some data or does not comply with the applicable requirements within forty business days from the first working day following the date of receipt, SENASICA will inform the interested

party of that fact, one time in writing, so that they can cure the omission(s) and/or provide or correct the relevant information.

Within the period described in the previous paragraph, for cases under Article 268 of this Agreement, SENASICA will send the corresponding documentation to the Council's Group of Experts within 5 business days of the date of the request, so that the Group, within the term of 25 business days, can report whether it is necessary to notify the interested party to submit any missing or additional documentation or to clarify the information accompanying the request. After that time, if the Group of Experts does not request that SENASICA notify the interested party, it shall be understood that they do not require additional information or clarification from the applicant in order to complete their technical recommendation.

c) The interested party will have a non-extendable term of 30 business days to address any issue, counted from the first day following the date of notice.

If the interested party does not address the issue before the term passes, such request shall not be considered.

A request cannot be rejected for any failure to address an issue, if the interested party was not notified of the issue.

d) When a party fails to address an issue or submits information to address it, for those cases brought under Article 268 of this Agreement, SENASICA will inform the Council's Group of Experts and will forward any documents submitted to address the issue. The Council's Group of Experts must then issue its technical recommendation within 55 business days from the date SENASICA provided the information, as set forth in this subsection.

e) Requests received by SENASICA will be published on its website 14 to 20 business days from the date of their receipt.

In cases brought under in Article 268, final results on requests will be published 14 to 20 business days after SENASICA receives the technical recommendation from the Council's Group of Experts.

f) The decision will be issued no later than 80 business days after the deadline to cure any defect and notice of the decision will be given to the interested party. If such period passes without a decision, it shall be understood that the interested party's request has been denied.

The Secretariat shall publish both on their website and SENASICA website the inclusion, amendment, or exclusion from the National List or from the list mentioned in Article 273 of this Agreement, as the case may be.

CHAPTER III

LIST OF SUBSTANCES

ARTICLE 276. In the production, preparation and/or processing, under organic methods, the use of the following is prohibited:

- I. Substances and natural or synthetic ingredients that are not on the permitted substances list;
- II. Biological products for livestock, except vaccines as long as they were evaluated by the corresponding authority of Animal Health;
- III. The irradiation derived from ionizing energy coming from radioactive materials or by accelerated electrons;
- IV. Wastewater coming from domestic, urban, industrial and conventional agriculture piping, including solid, semi-solid, biosolid or liquid wastes generated by the wastewater treatment;
- V. All materials, products and ingredients or inputs coming from or having been produced from excluded methods or genetically obtained or modified organisms, Nanotechnology as an extent of excluded methods;
- VI. The use of manufactured nanoparticles or nanostructures is prohibited. However, the use of nanoparticles appearing naturally, as when presented in biodynamic traditional practices, is permitted, and
- VII. Others determined by the Group of experts from the Council.

ARTICLE 277. Materials, substances, products, inputs, methods and ingredients included in the National List (Annex 1) comprising the tables based on specific uses are either totally permitted, generically permitted with restrictions, or compliant with the criteria established in Title VI of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 278. [Abrogated]

TRANSITORY ARTICLES

SOLE ARTICLE. - This Agreement shall become effective six months after its publication in the Official Journal of the Federation.

Mexico City, May 22, 2020. Signature of the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, **Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula**.

ANNEX 1. List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agricultural and Livestock Operations

This Annex includes tables with generic names of permitted inputs, food additives, adjuvants, permitted cleaning and disinfection substances, animal stocking rates, covered surfaces and other characteristics of animal lodging, as well as permitted products under Title VI and Annex 2 of the Agreement that describes the Guidelines for the Organic Operation of Agriculture and Livestock Activities.

TABLE 1. Inputs used as soil fertilizers, amendments, conditioners, and inoculants.

| Name | Description, composition requirements or use conditions |
|---|--|
| Manure | Sources of organic production or extensive livestock free of prohibited substances are permitted. |
| Liquid manure or animal urine | Sources of organic production or extensive livestock are permitted. Use, after a controlled fermentation or adequate dilution. Anaerobic fermentation products must be innocuous. The anaerobic fermentation process must take into account sequential phases (initial, transitional, acidic, methanogenic, and maturation). |
| Composted manure | Sources of organic production or extensive livestock free of prohibited substances are permitted. Intensive livestock sources are allowed only in the absence of established chemical or microbiological contaminants established for conventional products. |
| Dehydrated manure | Sources of organic production or extensive livestock free of prohibited substances are permitted. |
| Guano | <p>Guano. Seabird manure, which comes from accumulations that occurred in the Pliocene and Pleistocene; Composed of ammonia, uric acid, phosphoric, oxalic and carbonic acids, mineral salts and impurities.</p> <p>Bat guano. Bat manure accumulated during the Pliocene and Pleistocene, rich in nutrients and microbial flora; rich in organo-mineral chelates. Excessive and prolonged exposure without protection may cause histoplasmosis.</p> <p>The use of fresh bat guano will be restricted and conditioned on a demonstration that its handling does not jeopardize the health of gatherers, processors, distributors or other agents. And that it comes from sustainable sources.</p> |
| Straw | ----- |
| Substrates from cultivation of edible and medicinal mushrooms | The initial composition of the substrate shall be restricted to products produced pursuant to these Guidelines. |
| Vegetable and/or animal domestic residues | <p>Free of prohibited substances.</p> <p>Separated based on their origin and subject to an aerobic composting process or an anaerobic fermentation.</p> <p>Pursuant to the requirements established in the Decree to Register Organic Fertilizers, where several provisions of the Regulation are reformed, added and abrogated regarding registrations, import and export authorizations, and export certificates of pesticides, vegetable nutrients and toxic or dangerous materials and substances, where those products containing raw materials or animal or vegetable organic origin or residues thereof, cannot exceed the maximum values of pathogenic microorganisms and heavy metals, as set forth in such Decree.</p> |
| Composts from vegetable residues | Free of prohibited substances. |
| Green manures | From plants or weeds produced free of prohibited substances. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Processed animal products from slaughterhouses and fishing industries. | Maximum concentration in mg/kg of dry matter of chromium (VI):0 |
| Byproducts of food and textile industries | Not treated with synthetic additives. All residues from organic agriculture, livestock, agroindustry, as well as from traditional agriculture is permitted. |
| Algae and aquatic plants (continental or marine bodies of water) and their derivatives | Algae and aquatic plants (from continental or marine bodies of water) and their byproducts, obtained using permitted methods and substances. |
| Sawdust, tree bark and wood waste | Free of prohibited substances and shall not come from species in danger of extinction. |
| Aquatic plant extracts (non-hydrolyzed) | Free of prohibited substances. Extraction is limited to the use of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide. |
| Wood ashes | Free of prohibited substances. Not accepted from slash and burn. |
| Natural phosphate rock | Obtained from crushing mineral phosphates. Cadmium content shall be less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P ₂ O ₅ . |
| Basic slag | ----- |
| Mineral potash, potassium salts from mineral extraction (e.g., cainite, sylvite) | Less than 60% chlorine. |
| Potassium sulfate | Obtained by physical procedures but not enriched through chemical processes to increase its solubility. |
| Calcium carbonate of natural origin | ----- |
| Magnesium rock | From authorized sources |
| Calcareous magnesium rock | From authorized sources |
| Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) | ----- |
| Gypsum (calcium sulfate) | From mined sources. |
| Vinasse and its extracts | Except ammonium vinasse. |
| Aluminum-calcium phosphate | Its use is limited to basic soils (pH > 7,5) Obtained in amorphous form by thermic treatment and grinding with calcium and aluminum phosphates as its essential components. Cadmium component less than 90 mg/kg of P ₂ O ₅ . |
| Oligoelements | Except for those obtained from synthetic nitrate and chloride salts. The use of oligoelements as defoliant, herbicides or desiccants is prohibited. |
| Sulfur | ----- |
| Stone dust | ----- |
| Clay (e.g., bentonite, perlite, zeolite) | ----- |
| Natural biological organisms (e.g., nitrogen-fixing and phosphorus-solubilizing microorganisms) | ----- |
| Vermiculite | ----- |

| | |
|--|---|
| Peat, leonardite | Synthetic additives are excluded. Permitted for seeds, pots and modular composts. Other uses, as permitted by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or body recognized by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification. Peat: Its use is limited to horticulture (vegetable cultivation, floriculture, arboriculture, nursery and mobilization of vegetative material). |
| Worm humus (worm castings), vermicompost | ----- |
| Zeolites | ----- |
| Plant-based charcoal | ----- |
| Calcium chloride | ----- |
| Composted byproducts of the sugar industry (e.g., cachaza) | ----- |
| Byproducts of industries that make ingredients from organic agriculture. | ----- |
| Humus and fulvic acids | Obtained by alkaline extraction. |
| Aminoacids produced by plants, animals and microorganisms | From non-synthetic sources. Amino acids are considered non-synthetic if they are: a. Produced by plants, animals and microorganisms; b. Extracted or isolated by hydrolysis or other non-chemical means (such as physical extraction). They can be used as plant growth regulators or as chelating agents. |
| Inert ingredients, co-adjuvants, precursors, extractants, solvents, emulsifiers, reactants, stabilizers, and any other additive. | Permitted for use in formulation, only those included in List 4A or 4B of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). |

TABLE 2. Agents for the ecological handling of insects, fungi, viruses, bacteria, and weeds.

| Substance | Description, composition requirements and conditions of use |
|--|---|
| I. Vegetables and animals | |
| Natural pyrethrins preparation | ----- |
| <i>Quassiaamara</i> preparation | ----- |
| <i>Ryaniaspeciosa</i> preparation | ----- |
| Preparation based on Neem (<i>Azadirachtina</i>) obtained from <i>Azadirachta indica</i> | ----- |
| Preparation based on <i>Tagetes</i> spp. | ----- |
| Propolis | ----- |
| Vegetable and animal oils | ----- |
| Algae and aquatic plants (from continental or marine bodies of water) and their derivatives. | Not chemically treated. |
| Gelatin | ----- |
| Lecitin | ----- |

| | |
|--|--|
| Casein | ----- |
| Natural acids | ----- |
| <i>Aspergillus spp</i> fermentation products | ----- |
| Fungi extract | ----- |
| Natural plant preparations | In the case of wild species, they must come from sustainable production. |
| Tobacco extract | ----- |
| II. Minerals | |
| Inorganic compounds (Bordeaux mixture, copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride) | ----- |
| Burgundy mixture | ----- |
| Copper salts | ----- |
| Sulphur | ----- |
| Ferric phosphate | As a molluscicide. |
| Mineral powders (stone dust, silicates, kaolin) | ----- |
| Diatomaceous earth, paraffin oil (minerals) | ----- |
| Silicates, clay (Bentonite) | ----- |
| Sodium silicate | ----- |
| Sodium bicarbonate | ----- |
| Paraffin oil | ----- |
| III. Microorganisms used for the plague biological control | |
| Microorganisms (Bacteria, viruses and fungi) | ----- |
| IV. Macroorganisms | |
| Predators | ----- |
| Parasitoids | ----- |
| Nematodes and protozoa | ----- |
| V. Other | |
| Carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas | ----- |
| Potassium soap (soft soap) | ----- |
| Ethyl alcohol | ----- |
| Homeopathic and ayurvedic preparations | ----- |
| Herb and biodynamic preparations | ----- |
| Sterile male insects | ----- |
| VI. Traps | |
| Pheromone preparations | ----- |
| Preparations based on metaldehydes that contain repellents for larger animal species, provided that they are applied in traps. | ----- |
| Hydrolized protein | ----- |
| VII. Inert ingredients for formulations | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Inert ingredients, co-adjuvants, precursors, extractants, solvents, emulsifiers, reactants, stabilizers, and any other additive. | Permitted for use in formulation, only those included in List 4A or 4B of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). |
|--|--|

TABLE 3. Ingredients of non-agricultural origin permitted in the processing of organic products.

3.1. Food additives, including carriers.

| *INS | Name | Conditions of use |
|------|---------------------------------|---|
| 170 | Calcium carbonates | All functions are authorized, except as colorant. |
| 270 | Lactic acid | ----- |
| 290 | Carbon dioxide | ----- |
| 296 | Malic acid | ----- |
| 300 | Ascorbic acid | ----- |
| 306 | Tocopherol-rich extract | Antioxidant in fats and oils |
| 322 | Lecithins | ----- |
| 330 | Citric acid | ----- |
| 333 | Calcium citrates | ----- |
| 334 | Tartaric acid {L (+) -} | ----- |
| 335 | Sodium tartrate | ----- |
| 336 | Potassium tartrate | ----- |
| 341 | Monocalcium phosphate | Raising agent for self-fermentation flours |
| 400 | Alginic acid | ----- |
| 401 | Sodium alginate | ----- |
| 402 | Potassium alginate | ----- |
| 406 | Agar | ----- |
| 407 | Carrageenan | ----- |
| 410 | Locust bean gum or garrofin gum | ----- |
| 412 | Guar gum | ----- |
| 414 | Arabic gum | ----- |
| 415 | Xanthan gum | ----- |
| 422 | Glycerin or Glycerol | Vegetable extracts |
| 440 | Pectins | ----- |
| 500 | Sodium carbonate | ----- |
| 501 | Potassium carbonate | ----- |
| 503 | Ammonium carbonate | ----- |
| 504 | Magnesium carbonates | ----- |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 516 | Calcium sulfate | Acidulant, acidity regulator, anti-caking agent, anti-foaming agent, bulking agent. Support. |
| 524 | Sodium hydroxide | Surface treatment of Laugengebäck. |
| 551 | Silicon dioxide | Anti-caking agent for herbs and spices. |
| 938 | Argon | ----- |
| 941 | Nitrogen | ----- |
| 948 | Oxygen | ----- |
| | Colorants from plant origin | Obtained by physical procedures. |
| | Sulfites | To produce wines. Limited to no more than 100 ppm. |

*INS: International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives

3.2. Flavoring agents

The substances and products labeled as flavoring agents or natural favoring preparations, such as defined on the general requirements for natural flavorings (CAC/GL 29-1987).

3.3. Water and salts

Drinking water.

Salts (with sodium chloride or potassium chloride as basic components, generally used when making food).

3.4. Microorganisms and enzymes preparations

Any preparation based on microorganisms and enzymes usually employed during food elaboration, except microorganisms obtained by excluded or genetically modified methods or enzymes derived from genetic engineering.

3.5. Minerals (including oligoelements), vitamins, amino acids, micronutrients and essential fatty and other nitrogen compounds.

Authorized only to the extent that the regulation of the Health Secretariat, makes obligatory its use in food to which they are added.

3.6. For livestock and apiculture products.

To process livestock and apiculture products only:

| *INS | Name | Conditions of use |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 153 | Wood ash | Traditional cheese |
| 170 | Calcium carbonate | Dairy products. Not as colorant. |
| 270 | Lactic acid | Sausage casing (tripe). |
| 290 | Carbon dioxide | ----- |
| 322 | Lecithin | Obtained without bleaches or organic solvents. Dairy products/milk-based infant food /fatty products/mayonnaise. |
| 331 | Sodium citrates | Sausages/pasteurization of egg whites/dairy products. |
| 406 | Agar | ----- |
| 407 | Carrageenan | Dairy products |
| 410 | Locust vean gum | Dairy products/meat products. |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
| 412 | Guar gum | Dairy products/canned meats/egg products. |
| 413 | Tragacanth gum | ----- |
| 414 | Arabic gum | Dairy products/fatty products/confectionery products. |
| 440 | Pectin (not modified) | Dairy products. |
| 509 | Calcium chloride | Dairy products/meat products. |
| 938 | Argon | ----- |
| 941 | Nitrogen | ----- |
| 948 | Oxygen | ----- |

TABLE 4. Processing aids that can be used for the manufacturing/preparation of organic products from agricultural and livestock origin:

| Name | Specific conditions |
|---|---|
| Water | .... |
| Calcium chloride | Clotting agent. |
| Calcium Carbonate | .... |
| Calcium hydroxide | .... |
| Calcium sulfate | Clotting agent. |
| Magnesium chloride (or "nigari") | Clotting agent. |
| Potassium carbonate | Dry grapes. |
| Sodium carbonate | Sugar production. |
| Citric acid | Oil production and starch hydrolysis |
| Sodium hydroxide | Sugar production. Rapeseed oil production (<i>Brassicasp</i>). |
| Carbon dioxide | .... |
| Nitrogen | .... |
| Ethanol | Solvent. |
| Tannic acid | Clarifying agent. |
| Ovalbumine | .... |
| Casein | .... |
| Gelatin | .... |
| Isinglass or fish glue | .... |
| Vegetable oils | Greasing, releasing or anti-foaming agents |
| Silica gel or solution of silicon dioxide | .... |
| Activated carbon | .... |
| Talc | .... |
| Bentonite | .... |
| Kaolin | .... |
| Diatomaceous earth | .... |

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Perlite | .... |
| Hazelnut shells | .... |
| Rice flour | .... |
| Beeswax | Releasing agent. |
| Carnauba wax. | Releasing agent. |

4.1. Microorganisms and enzymes preparations

Any preparation based on microorganisms and enzymes usually employed during food elaboration, except microorganisms and enzymes obtained by means of an obtained organism of excluded or genetically modified methods (OGM), from an OGM and/or the derivatives of them.

TABLE 5. Ingredients from non-organic plant or animal origin, permitted for the organic manufacturing or processing or existent in small amounts as organic:

| |
|--|
| 1. Plant products without transformation and their derivative products |
| 1.1. Edible fruits and dried fruits: <i>Acorn (Quercus spp)</i> <i>Cola nuts (Cola acuminata)</i> <i>Gooseberry fruit (Ribes uva-crispa)</i> <i>Passion fruit (Passiflora edulis)</i> <i>Raspberries (dried) (Rubus idaeus)</i> <i>Red currants (Ribes rubrum)</i> |
| 1.2. Edible spices and aromatic plants: <i>Pepper (from Peru) (Schinus molle L)</i> <i>Horseradish seeds (Armoracia rusticana)</i> <i>Galanga (Alpinia officinarum)</i> <i>Safflower flowers (Carthamus tinctorius)</i> <i>Watercress (Nasturtium officinale)</i> |
| 1.3. Various: Algae, seaweed included, authorized in the preparation of conventional food products |
| 2. Vegetable products transformed by means of the application of other processes aside from those stated on point 1 of this subsection, provided that they are not additive or flavoring. |

| |
|---|
| <p>2.1 Fats and oils, refined or not, but not chemically modified and obtained from vegetables that are not:</p> <p>Cocoa (<i>Theobroma cacao</i>)</p> <p>Coconut (<i>Cocos nucifera</i>)</p> <p>Olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>)</p> <p>Sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)</p> <p>Oil palm (<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>)</p> <p>Rape (<i>Brassic napus, rapa</i>)</p> <p>Safflower (<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>)</p> <p>Sesame (<i>Sesamum indicum</i>)</p> <p>Soy (<i>Glycine max</i>)</p> |
| <p>2.2 Sugars, starch and other cereal and tuber products:</p> <p>Beet sugar</p> <p>Fructose</p> <p>Rice paper</p> <p>Unleavened bread paper</p> <p>Rice and waxy maize starch, not chemically modified</p> |
| <p>2.3. Sugars, starch and other cereal and tuber products:</p> <p>Beet sugar</p> <p>Fructose</p> <p>Rice paper</p> <p>Unleavened bread paper</p> <p>Rice and waxy maize starch, not chemically modified</p> |
| <p>2.4 Various:</p> <p>Pea protein (<i>Pisum spp</i>)</p> <p>Rum: exclusively obtained from sugar cane juice</p> |
| <p>3. Products of animal origin</p> <p>Water organisms, whose origin is not on aquaculture, authorized on the preparation of conventional food products</p> <p>Gelatin</p> <p>Whey powder "herasuola"</p> <p>Tripes</p> |

TABLE 6. Additives for animal feed, determined products used in animal feed and technological auxiliaries used in animal feed:

| |
|--|
| <p>1. Additives for animal feed</p> <p>1.1. Oligoelements. The following substances are included in this category:</p> <p>E1 Iron:</p> <p>carbonate ferrous (II)</p> <p>sulfate ferrous (II) monohydrate</p> <p>ferric oxide (III)</p> <p>E2 Iodine:</p> <p>anhydrous calcium iodate</p> <p>hexahydrate calcium iodide</p> <p>sodium iodide</p> <p>E3 Cobalt:</p> <p>cobalt sulphate (II) monohydrate and/or heptahydrate, basic cobalt carbonate (II) monohydrate</p> <p>E4 Copper:</p> <p>copper oxide (II)</p> <p>copper carbonate (II) basic monohydrate</p> <p>copper sulfate (II) pentahydrate</p> <p>E5 Manganese:</p> <p>carbonate manganous (II)</p> <p>manganous oxide (II) and manganic oxide (III)</p> <p>manganous sulphate (II) monohydrate and/or tetrahydrate</p> <p>E6 Zinc:</p> <p>zinc carbonate</p> <p>zinc oxide</p> <p>zinc sulfate monohydrate and/or heptahydrate</p> <p>E7 Molybdenum:</p> <p>ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate</p> <p>E8 Selenium:</p> <p>sodium selenate</p> <p>sodium selenite</p> |
| <p>1.2. Vitamins, provitamins and substances with analogue effect, chemically well defined:</p> <p>Preferably derived from raw materials that are naturally present in animal feed, or</p> <p>Vitamins of identical synthesis to natural vitamins only for monogastric animals.</p> <p>Notwithstanding what is stated on the first paragraph, the use of synthetic vitamins type A, B, and E shall be permitted, for ruminants, adhering at all times to the following conditions:</p> <p>- Synthetic vitamins shall be used only during the strictly necessary period.</p> |

| |
|--|
| <p>- Synthetic vitamins should be identical to natural vitamins.</p> <p>- The producer must include in his internal records, evidence which proves that the use of synthetic vitamins is, or was, indispensable for the health and wellbeing of the animals, which shall be verified or inspected by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the acknowledged body.</p> |
| <p>1.3. Enzymes. Need acknowledged by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the acknowledged body.</p> <p>1.4. Microorganisms. Need acknowledged by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or the acknowledged body.</p> <p>1.5. Preservatives. The following substances are included in this category:</p> <p>E 200 Sorbic acid</p> <p>E 236 Formic acid</p> <p>E 260 Acetic acid</p> <p>E 270 Lactic acid</p> <p>E 280 Propionic acid</p> <p>E 330 Citric acid</p> <p>Only the use of lactic, formic, propionic and acetic acid shall be permitted for the silage production when the weather conditions do not allow a proper fermentation.</p> |
| <p>1.6 Binding, anti-caking and clotting agents. Only the following substances are included in this category:</p> <p>E 470 Calcium stearate of natural origin</p> <p>E 551b Coloidal silica</p> <p>E 551c Diatomaceous earth</p> <p>E 558 Bentonite</p> <p>E 559 Kaolinitic clay</p> <p>E 560 Natural mixtures of stearites and chlorite</p> <p>E 561 Vermiculite</p> <p>E 562 Sepiolite</p> <p>E 599 Perlite</p> <p>Zeolites</p> |
| <p>1.7. Antioxidant substances. Only the following substances are included in this category:</p> <p>E 306 Tocopherol-rich extracts of natural origin.</p> |
| <p>1.8. Silage additives. Need acknowledged by the Secretariat, the approved organic certification body or body acknowledged by the Secretariat to apply a participatory certification.</p> |
| <p>2. Certain products used in animal feed.</p> <p>Only the following substances are included in this category:</p> <p>Beer yeast.</p> |
| <p>3. Technological auxiliaries used in animal feed.</p> <p>3.1 Technological auxiliaries used for silage. Only the following substances are included in this category: sea salt, salt mine, whey, sugar, sugar beet pulp, cereal flour and molasses.</p> |

TABLE 7. Permitted inputs for sanitization, disinfection, and cleaning in organic operations.

| In facilities for animal production: | Conditions of use |
|--|---|
| Vegetable oils | ----- |
| Acetic acid | From natural sources |
| Citric acid, peracetic acid, formic acid, lactic acid, oxalic acid and acetic acid | From natural sources and/or produced by microbial fermentation of carbohydrates and lactic substances using microorganisms not genetically modified. |
| Nitric acid and phosphoric acid for dairy equipment. | ----- |
| Water and steam | ----- |
| Ethyl alcohol | To be used as algicide, disinfectant and sanitizer, including the cleaning of irrigation systems. |
| Isopropyl alcohol | ----- |
| Lime | ----- |
| Quicklime | ----- |
| Sodium carbonate | ----- |
| Natural plant essences | ----- |
| Ozone gas | ----- |
| Sodium hypochlorite (e.g., as liquid bleach) | Residual chlorine levels in water shall not exceed the maximum limit of disinfectant residues under the Amendment to the Official Mexican Standard NOM-127-SSA1-1994 as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on November 22, 2000. |
| Soap | ----- |
| Potassium and sodium soap | ----- |
| Milk of lime | ----- |
| Hydrogen peroxide | ----- |
| Caustic potash | ----- |
| Cleaning and disinfection products for teats and milking facilities: | ----- |
| Caustic soda | ----- |
| For the cleaning and disinfection of irrigation equipment: | Conditions of use |
| Vegetable oils | ----- |
| Acetic acid | It can be used as an algicide or disinfectant, including the cleaning of irrigation systems. |
| Peracetic acid | (CAS #-79-21-0). For use as a disinfectant of surfaces that come into contact with food and in water to wash and/or rinse products, within the limits established by COFEPRIS. |
| Water and steam | ----- |
| Ethyl or isopropyl alcohol | As algicide, disinfectant and sanitizer, including the cleaning of irrigation systems. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Ozone gas | ----- |
| Soap | ----- |
| Chlorine materials: calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, sodium hypochlorite | Residual levels of chlorine in water shall not exceed the maximum limit of disinfectant residues under Amendment to the Official Mexican Standard NOM-.127-SSA1-1994 as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on November 22, 2000. |
| Hydrogen peroxide | As algicide, disinfectant and sanitizer, including the cleaning of irrigation systems. |
| For processing and storage plants and transport equipment: | Conditions of use |
| Phosphoric acid | ----- |
| Peracetic acid/ peroxyacetic acid | (CAS #-79-21-0). For use as a disinfectant of surfaces that come into contact with food and in water used to wash and/or rinse products, within the limits established by COFEPRIS. |
| Water and steam | ----- |
| Chlorine materials: calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, sodium hypochlorite | Residual levels of chlorine in water shall not exceed the maximum limit of disinfectant residues under Amendment to the Official Mexican Standard NOM-.127-SSA1-1994 as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on November 22, 2000. |
| Ozone | ----- |
| Hydrogen peroxide | As algicide, disinfectant and sanitizer, including the cleaning of irrigation systems. |
| To sanitize, disinfect and clean surfaces that come into contact with food and for the post-harvest handling. | Conditions of use |
| Acetic acid | From natural sources and to be used as a food grade cleaner, sanitizer, and disinfectant |
| Citric acid | Food grade cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants produced by microbial fermentation of carbohydrates and lactic substances using non-genetically modified microorganisms. |
| Peracetic (peroxyacetic) acid | (CAS #-79-21-0). It can be used as a disinfectant of surfaces that come into contact with food and in water used to wash and/or rinse the products, within the limits established by COFEPRIS. |
| Water and steam | ----- |
| Ethyl alcohol | As disinfectants and sanitizers, including cleaning irrigation systems and surfaces that come into contact with food and shall be eliminated before organic production. |
| Isopropyl alcohol/isopropanol | Food grade cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants and shall be eliminated before the organic production. |
| Natural plant essences | For example, citrus extracts. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Calcium hypochlorite | Free chlorine levels for wash water in contact with crops or food, and in wash water of cleaning irrigation systems, which are applied to crops or fields, shall not exceed the maximum limits under applicable drinking water standards. |
| Sodium hypochlorite (e.g., as liquid bleach) | To be used pre-harvest, the residual chlorine levels in the water that comes into direct contact with crops or in the wash water of the irrigation systems applied to soil shall not exceed the maximum residual limits established in the Amendment to NOM-127-SSA1-1994 as published in the Official Journal of the Federation on November 22, 2000. |
| Hydrogen peroxide | For use as a disinfectant of surfaces that come into contact with food. It shall be eliminated from surfaces that come into contact with food before the organic production. |

TABLE 8. Animal density per surface area and species, permitted in animal organic production.

| Maximum number of animals per hectare/class or species | Maximum number of animals per hectare equivalent to 170 Kg *N/ha/year |
|--|---|
| Equines older than 6 months | 2 |
| Calves for fattening | 5 |
| Other bovine less than one year old | 5 |
| Male bovine between 1 and 2 years | 3.3 |
| Female bovine between 1 and 2 years | 3.3 |
| Male bovine older than 2 years | 2 |
| Breeding heifers | 2.5 |
| Heifers for fattening | 2.5 |
| Dairy cows | 2 |
| Replacement dairy cows | 2 |
| Other cows | 2.5 |
| Breeding rabbits | 100 |
| Sheep | 13.3 |
| Goats | 13.3 |
| Piglets | 74 |
| Breeding sows | 6.5 |
| Pigs for fattening | 14 |
| Other pigs | 14 |
| Meat poultry | 580 |
| Laying hens | 230 |

***N: Nitrogen**

TABLE 9. Minimum covered and fresh air surfaces and other organic animal housing characteristics of the following species and production type: Bovine, ovine and sows:

| | Covered zone (Available surface by animal) | | Fresh air zone (Exercise surface except pastures in m ² /head) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | Minimum live weight (kg) | m ² /head | |
| Breeding and growing bovines | up to 100 | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| | up to 200 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| | up to 350 | 4.0 | 3 |
| | over 350 | 5 with at least 1 m ² /100kg | 3.7 with at least 0.75 m ² /100kg |
| Milk cows | | 6 | 4.5 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Breeding destined bulls | | 10 | 30 |
| Sheep and goats | | 1.5 sheep/goat | 2.5 |
| | | 0.35 lamb/kid | 0.5 by lamb/kid |
| Farrowing sows with piglets up to 40 days | | 7.5 sow | 2.5 |
| Growing sows | up to 50 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| | Up to 85 | 1.1 | 0.8 |
| | up to 110 | 1.3 | 1 |
| Piglets | over 40 days and up to 30 kg | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Breeding sows | | 2.5 female | 1.9 |
| | | 6.0 male | 8.0 |

TABLE 10. Minimum covered and fresh air surfaces and other organic animal housing characteristics of organic poultry and types of production:

| | Covered zone (available surface by animal) | | | Fresh air zone (m ² of available area in rotation/head) |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---|--|
| | Num. Animals /m ² | cm of hook/animal | Nest | |
| Laying hens | 6 | 18 | 8 laying hens by nest or, if it is a common nest 120 cm ² by bird | 4, provided the limit of 170kg/N/h/year is not exceeded |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Growing poultry (in fix housing) | 10, with maximum 21 kg live weight/m ² | 20 (only for guinea fowl) | | 4, meat poultry and guinea fowl 4.5, ducks 10, turkeys 15, geese the limit of 170/kg/h/year must not be exceeded for any of the aforementioned species |
| Fattening poultry in mobile housing | 16 (*) mobile housing with maximum 30 kg. live weight /m ² | | | 2.5, provided the limit of 170kg/N/h/year is not exceeded |
| (*) Only in the case of mobile houses not exceeding 150 m ² floor space which remain open at night. | | | | |
| NOTE: In case this substances are used as micronutrients, their use should be supported by previous analysis or soil, or plant, study that indicated the deficiency; or for visual nutriment deficiencies. | | | | |

ANNEX 2. Under Title VI of this Agreement, the following tables shall be completed by the interested parties with information requested to assess the substances, materials, products, inputs, methods and ingredients, and mixtures or combinations thereof, to be applied in organic operations based on the expected use.

TABLE 1: This table contains general information to include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients, and mixtures or combinations thereof, to be used as permitted and mentioned in the National List tables, or for a use different from those designated in the National List, or of foreign origin.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|---|--|
| Application to assess materials, substances, products, inputs, ingredients, and mixtures or combinations thereof, made or manufactured for a use permitted in organic operations. | The application shall be written and shall include: date of application; name of the legal agent; name of the company or individual; contact information for notifications; the list of materials, substances, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof to be assessed, and the trademark(s). |
| The label project or the label authorized by the relevant sanitary registry or the product documents or specifications as shown for sale. | The conditions of use shall comply with the restrictions related to the ingredients included in the National List. The label information shall be consistent with the application information provided to SENASICA and with the official labelling standards. |
| Sanitary registration issued by the health authority or card, authorization and / or certification granted by the Animal Health Authority or organic certificate, as appropriate. | Documents shall confirm that either the intended use as shown in the label is authorized in Mexico or is exempted from any registration and/or authorization under the applicable regulations. The applicant can provide information confirming that the use is permitted under other countries' equivalent organic standards and complies with the criteria established in Article 265 of this Agreement. These documents are important because they shall determine the effectiveness period in the National List or the 5-year period if the product does not require a sanitary registration, authorization, and/or certification issued by the Health Authority. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>The list of ingredients, raw materials and media used to produce the material, substance, product, input, method, or ingredient.</p> | <p>The list shall be complete and consistent with the product category and description (for example, the formula for a vegetable extract shall describe the extracts; or a microbial product shall describe the culture media; and an organic manure shall describe the raw materials).</p> <p>All of the components of the products used to manufacture the final product must be listed in the National List of Permitted Substances for the Agricultural and Livestock Organic Operation. If they are not included there, the criteria established in Article 265 of this Agreement shall apply. The list shall include the main ingredients and raw materials, the culture media, substrates, precursors, extractants, solvents, emulsifiers, reactants and stabilizers, as well as any other additive or inert ingredient. In the latter case, only inert ingredients included in List 4 A and B of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall be used.</p> |
| <p>A complete description of the process for the final product.</p> | <p>The description of the manufacturing process or method shall include at least: quantities, the sequence, the duration of events, changes of temperature, and the reactions, in order to confirm compliance with Articles 265, section VII, and 276 of this Agreement.</p> <p>The description of steps or mechanisms shall serve to confirm that substances prohibited in the organic operation are not present in the final product.</p> <p>This requirement is not mandatory if the product shall be used in animal food and health.</p> |
| <p>Information to verify the origin of the ingredients.</p> | <p>Raw materials of some products are subject to a radiation pretreatment, while other products may be formulated with biosolids from treated sewage. Therefore, a statement from the vendors of every ingredient shall be sufficient to verify that the product or ingredients thereof were not made or obtained by prohibited methods or from genetically modified organisms, ionizing radiation, or sewage water.</p> |
| <p>A technical datasheet of every product containing active and inert ingredient(s).</p> | <p>The information contained in the technical datasheet shall be consistent with the information stated in the label.</p> |

TABLE 2: This table shall include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients, mixtures and combinations thereof for soil fertilizers, upgraders, amendments, conditioners and inoculants and for the nutrition of crops and as agents for the ecological handling of insects, fungi, viruses, bacteria, undesirable herbs in organic operations, including processing facilities.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|---|---|
| <p>Documentation issued by an acknowledged biologic control center or by a well-known, authorized or official laboratory if the products contain or result from microorganisms or act as biologic control agents.</p> | <p>This documentation is intended to verify species or subspecies, the scientific name (gender and species) of living organisms, and a guarantee of the minimum content of microorganisms as expressed in colony-forming units (CFU), international units or polyhedral inclusion bodies, as applicable.</p> <p>This requirement is waived if other regulations are met, evidenced by a copy of the relevant registration obtained in Mexico.</p> |

TABLE 3: This table shall include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof for soil fertilizers, upgraders, amendments, conditioners and inoculants and for the crop nutrition.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|---|--|
| A verifiable analysis from a well-known, authorized or official laboratory in cases of items containing humic acid. | Such analysis shall verify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content of at least 1% of humic acid. • The potassium (potassium hydroxide) content in the product. (If the content of humic acid is not equal to at least 3 times the level of potash, the product shall be considered as a synthetic potassium fertilizer (potassium hydroxide) and not as humic acid.) • Total content of nitrogen (TKN) and ammonium nitrogen. (Synthetic nitrogen cannot exceed 1% of the product, otherwise it shall be considered as a synthetic nitrogen fertilizer and not as humic acid.) Where not showing the ammonium nitrogen content, it must be technically justified. |
| A verifiable analysis from an approved, well-known or official laboratory in case of items containing: compost, vermicompost, microbes, microorganisms or products from microbial processes or animal products, including fish. | If the compost is manufactured and not a raw material in the final product, the laboratory analysis must declare the initial total nitrogen content in dry weight and the initial total carbon content of the raw material, in order to verify compliance with Article 43, section I of this Agreement. Compliance with these levels shall mean that the product is subject to the same use restrictions as for fresh manure or for manure not turned into fertilizer. |
| If the product contains mined minerals, documents identifying the specific location of the minerals' origin. | Such documents must show that the minerals are extracted from a real mine and are not synthesized. |
| A verifiable analysis from a well-known, authorized or official laboratory if the product contains water plants, seaweed, or liquid fish. | Such analysis shall show the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pH level if the product contains water plants and seaweeds. If it contains liquid fish, the pH level shall be higher than 3.5. • The maximum concentration in mg/kg of chromium dry matter (VI) as established in the Decree that amends, adds and abrogates several provisions of the Regulation related to the registration, import and export authorization, and certificates of export of pesticides, vegetable nutrients, substances, and toxic or dangerous materials. • The potassium (potassium hydroxide) content in the product if it contains water plants or liquid fish. The extraction of water plants is restricted to the use of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxides. The use of an alkaline solvent shall not exceed the minimum required for the extraction. This requirement may be waived upon compliance with other regulations and the submission of documentation showing the relevant registration in Mexico. |
| A verifiable analysis from a well-known, authorized or official laboratory if the product is to be used for crop nutrition or as soil amendment. | The analysis shall verify that all of the nutrients coincide with the statements on the label of the input or of the commercial materials. It must also test for the presence of N-P-K. |

TABLE 4: This table shall include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof acting as agents for the ecological handling of insects, fungi, viruses, bacteria, weeds in organic operations, including processing facilities.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|--|--|
| Documents issued by a well-known, authorized, or official laboratory if the product contains vegetable extracts. | The documents shall be used to verify the scientific name (gender and species) of vegetables and the minimum content of vegetable extracts as expressed in mass/mass percent, and their equivalence in g/Kg or g/L. This requirement shall be waived if there is evidence of compliance with regulations for organic products from equivalent countries or if there is a copy of the appropriate certification in Mexico. |
| Documents with technical information if the product contains petroleum derivatives as active ingredients. | The documentation is to verify the 50% boiling point, which should be between 213° and 227° C. |

TABLE 5: It shall include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures and combinations thereof as additives or co-adjuvants for organic product processing.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|---|--|
| The Codex Alimentarius or other international regulation for organic products for which Mexico has an equivalence agreement shall be referred. Such regulation shall state that the substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof are used as additives or co-adjuvants of non-agricultural origin. | This reference shall serve to verify that the substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof to be used as additives or co-adjuvants or non-agricultural origin can be used in food products. |
| Documents describing the gender and species of the source organisms if they are used as additives or co-adjuvants containing enzymes. | These documents shall be used to verify that genders and species of source organisms come from edible non-toxic plants or from fungi or non-pathogenic bacteria, or that they comply with the Codex Alimentarius. |
| A verifiable analysis from a well-known, authorized, or official laboratory if the product is used as additive or co-adjuvant and contains liquid or gaseous nitrogen or oxygen. | The analysis shall be used to verify the hydrocarbon content in the ingredients containing nitrogen or oxygen. |

TABLE 6: Specific information that the applicants should present for the evaluation of the substances, materials and supplies or their formulations, agents for ecological management of insects, fungi, virus, bacteria, unwanted herbs in organic operations include processing facilities.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|---|--|
| A current organic certificate or documents evidencing the scarce organic availability of ingredients of agricultural and livestock origin not included in the National List or other international regulation related to organic products with which Mexico has an equivalency agreement, if the agricultural ingredients to be used are not included in Annex 1. | This document shall serve to verify that the input of agricultural origin is not available organically or is available in small amounts, or it can be demonstrated that it is permitted in other organic production regulations from countries with which Mexico has an equivalency agreement. |

TABLE 7: This table shall include substances, materials, products, inputs, ingredients and mixtures or combinations thereof for animal feeding.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|--|---|
| A verifiable analysis from a well-known, authorized, or official laboratory if the product contains minerals, including microminerals. | The analysis shall serve to verify that the content of elemental contaminants such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, and selenium are below or at least within tolerable levels, pursuant to Table 8 of this annex. |

TABLE 8: Maximum tolerable levels of mineral contaminants in animal feeding.

| Mineral contaminant | ppm |
|---------------------|---|
| Arsenic | 30 |
| Cadmium | 10 |
| Mercury | 2 |
| Lead | 10 for non-ruminants, 100 for ruminants |
| Selenium | 5 for mineral nutrients not containing selenium |

TABLE 9: This table shall include substances, materials, products, inputs and ingredients, their mixtures or combinations thereof, for cleaning and disinfection, with trademark, in organic processing facilities.

| Required item(s) | Review guideline |
|--|--|
| Draft instructions that will be used as advertising material, when used for cleaning and disinfection in organic operations. | This document shall be reviewed to confirm that it includes effective methods to avoid contact between organic products and prohibited substances. |

ANNEX 3. Forms that the control system shall apply and when applicable the Certification body of the Secretariat.

O-SQ-F-01. REQUEST FOR ORGANIC PRODUCT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION/CONVERSION O-

SQ-F-02. REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTARY INSPECTION FOR RECERTIFICATION.

O-SQ-F-03. CONTROL DOCUMENT OR INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTION O-

SQ-F-04. ORGANIC CERTIFICATE

O-SQ-F-05. REQUEST OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARTICIPATORY CERTIFICATION

| O-SQ-F-01 Request for organic product inspection and certification / Conversion | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Income number (DGIAAP exclusive use / Certification Body) | Date of Receipt (DGIAAP exclusive use / Certification Body) | |
| C: CERTIFICATION BODY I formally request the organic inspection and certification for the activity whose information is indicated hereafter: | | |
| I OPERATOR GENERAL INFORMATION | | |
| Name of the owner (natural person) or trade name (legal person) | RFC (Taxpayer's ID No.): CURP (Unique Population Registry Key) (Optional): | |
| Tax Domicile: | | |
| Street, exterior, and interior number: | Colony | Delegation/Municipality |
| Location: | Martha Arredondo Urzúa, | Federal Entity |
| Telephone, fax: | Email: | |

| II. GENERAL INFORMATION | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Type of operator (mark with an X the requested service) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Operator <input type="checkbox"/> Certification Renewal (indicate certificate number_) | | |
| Product /Process: (Mark with X) | Certificate Coverage: | Number of products: |
| Production: <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable <input type="checkbox"/> Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Recollection <input type="checkbox"/> Processing <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing Other (indicate): | Surface (ha): Installed capacity: Heads: Apiaries: Other: | Unprocessed production <input type="checkbox"/> Processed () Prepared food () Cattle food () Meat () Other () |
| Indicate the crops list and each surface: | | |

Indicate the animal list and amount:

Lots and/or plots address where the organic operations are made

Street, exterior and interior number, Colony, Delegation/Municipality, Zip Code and Federal Entity; for the plots, a location map must be annexed.

| O-SQ-F-01 Request for inspection and certification DGIAAP/SENASICA | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO ANNEX TO THE REQUEST, IN DIGITAL VERSION: | | |
| WORD FORMAT: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic plan according to the developed agricultural and livestock activity. • Field history. • Organic Production Internal Regulation for groups of producers in case of groups of producers complying with the minimum requirements established on this Agreement. • Copy of the previous certificate, if it is a certification broadening, • Letter of Commitment, from the Operator to perform the operations in compliance with the current established regulations | | |
| PDF FORMAT: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps of all the plots and/or areas included on the production unit. | | |
| 2. Inspection scope | | |
| Number of Producers/Beekeepers/Collectors/Breeders | Product (s), Process(es) to certify | No. Hectares/ Hives/ Cattle heads to certify |
| | | |
| II. Production/recollection information: | | |
| 1. Responsible person for inspection and certification follow-up: | | |
| II. Production/recollection information: | | |

1. Responsible person for inspection and certification follow-up:
2. Mention the zone, region or municipalities where the crop, recollection, apiaries or paddock zones are (annex location sketch):
3. For GPP, GPA, GPG, GPR: Was the 100% of the organic product Producers internally inspected?
Yes/No % Inspected
Has producers that request a conversion period reduction:
Yes/No
If Yes, do you have the following documents?

- a. Written plot history
 - b. Letter of endorsement of no use of prohibited products in the last 3 years
 - c. Record system that proves the organic management of the crop
 - d. laboratory analysis
4. To market your product, does it need processing?:
Yes/No
The processing plant is property of the organization If No, where is the organic product processed? It this certification plant certified? Yes/No
Name of the certifier: Indicate the certification that said processing plant has

III. Processing and marketing information

(Only applies for processing plants and traders who are not involved in the production)

1. Name of the responsible body to follow-up the organic inspection and certification of the raw materials or marketed products:
2. Name and address of the processing or marketing plant:
3. What products do you wish to certify as organic?
4. Period or epoch of processing, marketing:
5. Do the raw materials have organic certification?
Yes/No Name
6. Which products do you market as organic?
7. The product(s) you marked are for sale:
National, Exportation, Both
8. In case of being exporter, indicate which are the countries of exportation:
9. Please indicate if in the last year there were any important changes in some of the processes managed by the operator, technological change on the field, processing, facilities, staff and other relevant.

IV. Exceptions referred to on article 168 of the Organic Operation Guidelines. (Can only applied to the production units with facilities built before December 31, 2008, which had been certified as organic under voluntary schemes before the date mentioned)

Indicate if you request the authorization for an exception period for adjustments to animal density. Yes_ No_

Indicate the required period to adjust the production unit, the space conditions and animal density: _year(s), month(s).

Briefly explain the characteristics that must be adjusted on the production unit:

Sincerely

Applicant's name, signature and seal

Information of the legal representatives (when applicable):

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| Full name | CURP (Unique Population Registry Key) (Optional): | E-Mail |
|-----------|---|--------|

Name of the certification body.

Domicile, telephone, fax, page

O-SQ-F-02 Request for documentary inspection for recertification.

I request that a specific crop or product certified by another body is reviewed by this approved certification body is re-certificated. The document inspection request shall only apply to those lots that support the previously granted certification and cannot be referred to additional list, products, or producers.

The commercial activity will be made once the favorable opinion is made, to market or process it as organic. Name of the certified operator (member):

Certified operator number: Number of producers:

Address:_Telephone:

Fax:

Crop or product: Lot number.

Year of cultivation: Surface Amount

Name of the producer:

Address_Telephone

Fax

Certified by (Name of the body)

Certificate number (annex copy of it).

Address Telephone

Fax

I understand that all required documentation must be provided to the certification body within 60 days after the request is made. Otherwise, the request shall be discarded.

Reevaluation

I understand that if I am not in agreement with the documents exam result, I have 15 days from the date of the decision to supply additional documentation for its reevaluation. And the responsibility to provide additional documentation is only mine. Besides, the certification body shall perform a reevaluation, and the decision on the reevaluation only cannot be appealed.

Required documentation for inspection

1. Copy of the current certificate of the organic certification applicable to the crop or product.
2. Letter of previous certification or document with the requirements, recommendations and/or conditions.
3. Questionnaires pertinent to the certification of the crop or product.
4. In situ inspection report
5. Field history for the last 36 months from the date of the harvest collected from the site
6. Field maps for the last 36 months from the date of harvest and identify the production field for the lot at issue
7. Documentation that demonstrated the size of the buffer zone between Organic Production and non-organic production
8. If the buffer zones are harvested, sample of the documentation that proves the segregation of organic crops and the buffer zone.
9. The verification that the inspector is independent from the operation and does not have financial bindings with the applicant. (A sworn declaration is enough).
10. Amount of crop or product to be approved.
11. Documentary follow-up audit and verify how the product segregation is managed.
12. Documentation relative to the location of the place of storage of the crop or product.
13. If you are part of a group of operators:
 - a. Description of the Internal Control System and
 - b. The documentation of the internal regulations.

NOTE: If any documentation indicated above is not applicable to the request, provide a detailed explanation with support documentation that deals with the identified problematic.

O-SQ-F-02 Request of recertification page number 2

Date:

O-SQ-F-03 Control document or international transaction

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Organic Certification Body or Authority (name, address, telephone, e-mail). | Regulation | |
| Organic Certificate Number: | | |
| Producer or processor (name, address, telephone, e-mail) | Country of origin | |
| | Country of destination | |
| Exporter (name, address, telephone, e-mail) | First recipient (name, address, telephone, e-mail) | |
| Importer (name, address, telephone, e-mail) | | |
| Marks and numbers, number of containers, characteristics, product commercial denomination Name of the product. Year of harvest: Origin: Contract number Invoice number: Invoice date: Lot Number: Advice Shipping Number: Number of the container: Number of containers: | Declared amount (kg) Gross weight: Net weight: Other units | |
| | Declaration from the Organic Certification Body or Authority stated on point 1. | |
| | Expedition place: | |
| | Name and Signature of the Legal Representative | |
| | Name and signature (or fingerprint) of the applicant: | |

O-SQ-F-03 Declaration of control/International transaction Page number Date:

O- SQ- F- 04

ORGANIC CERTIFICATESpace for the OCO or
SENASICA logo**Name of the Organic Operator]**

Address of the Organic Operator]

**Legal Representative: [Name of the Representative of
the Organic Operator]**Organic Operator ID: [Number of Identification of Organic
Operator**[Number of Organic Certificate] XXX- 0000- Year- XXX
[Certificate scope]****Products and/or activities covered:**

-
- ...

Surface: []

Location: [Location of the area or facility where the organic production is made]

By means of this document, and in accordance with the provisions on articles 17, 19, 22 and 23 of the Organic Products Law; 12, 15, 17 and 27 of the Regulation of the Organic Products Law; **[OCO or SENASICA]** certifies that the aforementioned Operator, products and activities, comply with the dispositions and procedures stated on the **Agreement by which are stated the Guidelines for the Organic Operation of the Agriculture and Livestock Activities**. It is the Operator's complete responsibility to comply permanently with the corresponding dispositions and procedures.

This certificate is not valid as guarantee for transactions. For each commercial transaction of the Organic product sheltered by this certificate, **[OCO or SENASICA]** issues a **Document of Control/Transaction** where is specified the amount of product to market.

This Organic Certificate is valid for **one** year from the date of issue.

Place and Date of issue: []**Validity: []****[Responsible party of the Issuing of the Certificate]***[Position]*

[Name OCO or SENASICA]

[Address OCO or SENASICA]

O-SQ-F-04 **ORGANIC CERTIFICATE**

