

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDANCE TOOL. ALWAYS CHECK THE LATEST VERSION OF THE STANDARD FOR THE MOST CURRENT CRITERIA.

**Manure Sources** from CAN/CGSB 32.310 *Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards*

## 5.5 Manure Management

5.5.1 **Manure Sources** — The operator shall first use all available animal manure produced on the organic operation (onfarm) and then may use manure from other organic operations (off-farm). When manure from organic operations is not available in sufficient quantities, the operator may use manure from non-organic farm operations provided that

- a. the non-organic operation is not a fully caged system where livestock are not able to turn 360°;
- b. livestock are not permanently kept in the dark;
- d. the source of manure, type of livestock, evaluation of the criteria mentioned in par. 5.5.1 a. and b., and quantity shall be recorded.

*Note: Organic operations should make it a priority to use manure obtained from transition or extensive livestock operations and not originating from landless livestock production operations or from livestock operations using genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their derivatives in animal feeds.*

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**Composting feedstocks, Compost produced on the farm, Compost produced from off farm sources, and Compost tea** from CAN/CGSB 32.311 *Organic Production Systems – Permitted Substances List*

### Composting feedstocks;

Acceptable feedstocks include:

- a. animal manures conforming to par. 5.5.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards*;
- b. animal, animal products and by-products (including fishery);
- c. plants and plant by-products (including forestry and source-separated yard debris, such as grass clippings and leaves);
- d. soils and minerals conforming to this standard and CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards*.

The following are prohibited as composting feedstocks: sewage sludge; compost starter and feedstocks fortified with substances not included in this standard or prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards*; leather by-products; glossy paper; waxed cardboard; paper containing coloured ink; and animal, animal products and animal by-products that are not guaranteed free of the risk materials specified in *Bone meal*.

Except for animal manures, feedstocks that may be contaminated with substances not included in this standard or prohibited by par. 1.4.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, shall require documentation to confirm the absence of these substances OR documentation substantiating the common degradation of such contaminants during the composting process.

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### **Compost produced on the farm;**

Compost produced on the farm shall conform to the criteria in *Composting feedstocks (see above)*.

In addition if made from animal manures or other likely sources of human pathogens, compost produced on the farm shall:

- a. reach a temperature of 55°C (130°F) for a period of four consecutive days or more. The compost piles shall be mixed or managed to ensure that all of the feedstock heats to the required temperature for the minimum time;

OR

- b. meet limits for acceptable levels (MPN/g total solids) of human pathogens specified in the Canadian Council for Ministers of the Environment publication *Guidelines for Compost Quality*; Currently those requirements are “fecal coliforms < 1000 MPN / g of total solids calculated on a dry weight basis, OR No *Salmonella* sp. with a detection level < 3 MPN / 4g total solids calculated on a dry weight basis.” [CCME Compost Quality](#) (CCME ‘05/PDF 924 KB)

OR

- c. be considered as aged or raw manure rather than compost (i.e. meet the requirements specified in par. 5.5.2.5 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards*).

### **Compost produced from off farm sources;**

Compost obtained from off-farm sources shall conform to the criteria in *Composting feedstocks (see above)*.

In addition, compost obtained from off-farm sources:

- a. shall not exceed the maximum acceptable levels of trace contaminants (mg/kg) and foreign matter outlined for unrestricted use (Category A) compost as specified in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) publication *Guidelines for Compost Quality* [CMEE pages 16 and 17](#) (CCME ‘05/PDF 924 KB);

AND

- b. shall not cause a buildup of heavy metals in soil over repeated applications;

AND

- c. shall meet criteria for acceptable levels (MPN/g total solids) of human pathogens as specified in the CCME publication *Guidelines for Compost Quality*.

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**Compost tea:**

Compost tea shall be made from composts conforming to the criteria in *Compost produced on the farm* or *Compost obtained from off-farm sources* or *Worm castings*.

Other substances listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311, *Organic Production Systems — Permitted Substances Lists*, may be added to compost tea. If compost tea is applied directly to the edible parts of plants, the operator shall be able to demonstrate that best practices known to eliminate pathogens during the processing have been used OR that the requirements for raw manure in par. 5.5.2.5 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards* have been met.

See the definition of *Compost Tea* in section 3 of CAN/CGSB-32.310, *Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards*.