



Aug 29, 2014

Subject – CPMA draft comments to CFIA *Incorporation by Reference (IBR) Consultation Document*

Submitted to: CFIA-Modernisation-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca

Comment due date: August 29th, 2014

CPMA and its members strongly support the regulatory modernization efforts as part of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and is pleased to provide the following comments on the CFIA ***Incorporation by Reference (IBR) Consultation Document***

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is a not-for-profit organization representing companies that are active in the marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables in Canada from the farm gate to the dinner plate. CPMA members cover various industries, integrating all segments of the fresh produce industry, including major growers, shippers, packers and marketers; importers and exporters; transportation and logistics, brokers, distributors and wholesalers; retailers, fresh cuts and foodservice distributors, operators and processors. CPMA is proud to represent over 790 domestic and international members who are responsible for 90% of the fresh fruit and vegetables sales in Canada.

General Comments:

CPMA appreciates the extension to the comment period given for this consultation document; this has allowed our industry a little more time to conduct a more thorough review of the consultation documents.

Specific Comments

Overall, industry supports Incorporation by Reference (IBR) to ensure an ability to react quickly to changes in market demands and innovation without going through the lengthy regulatory amendment process.

With respect to documents created by CFIA or other federal government departments (internal documents) the decision to proceed with proposed changes to an internal document or if a re-assessment of an internal document is required due to internal or external comments received, CPMA recommends that **all final approvals should be at the level of the President of the CFIA or the Minister responsible and that the Agency clearly indicate which types of document and or modification would be approved at which level.** CPMA requests that CFIA provide specifics on what triggers will or will not allow an amendment to a government of Canada document to proceed.

A formal review mechanism to evaluate the impact /satisfaction/effectiveness of a referenced document must be created; and

All parties who own or are responsible for a document incorporated by reference must adhere to an agreed to process to make changes to the document. This should include the industry to which the document is relevant and to documents owned by government such as CFIA. As an example, the fresh fruit and vegetable industry would prefer to have the Canadian grade standards, now contained in regulation, referenced in a document.

A regulatory amendment is currently required to make changes to standards which can take years to accomplish

- The Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) should be responsible for updating this document based on formal advice from both CPMA and CHC. (i.e. The document should be industry-managed to negate any delays in reacting to changes in the marketplace)
- Also, the process to establish such a referenced document would also include the appropriate procedures to make temporary changes to grade standards to address temporary market or production conditions. (e.g. This would address situations such as poor growing conditions which produce small or misshapen fruits.)