

February 17, 2026

## **Bulletin: Promulgation of Revised General Order – Update and Next Steps**

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission (the Commission) is issuing this bulletin to update industry on the status of the **General Order modernization process**, outline the changes that were made in response to the request for feedback on the draft that was circulated on December 30, 2025, and what the next steps will be.

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### **Background and Work Completed to Date**

The **BULLETIN** released December 30, 2025 outlined the comprehensive industry consultation process that was followed in October and November 2025. This led to a proposed revised version of the General Order that was released for final feedback before promulgation.

That bulletin provided information about the consultation process and an overview of the changes that were proposed.

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### **Additional Changes in Response to Final Call for Feedback**

Industry stakeholders were invited to review the redrafted General Order and provide written feedback on the proposed amendments. The Commission met to review the feedback that we received and agreed to make these additional adjustments:

- Broaden the definition of “Processing” (in response to a submission from a licensed agency to ensure that the minor handling that occurs at producers’ premises in the process of packaging are not unintentionally defined as Processing)
- Slight clarifications to 7(2) and 7(3) on transferability of licenses (in response to a submission from a licensed agency to ensure that the Commission retains discretionary ability when considering the cancellation of a license when certain ownership changes are made)
- Slight clarifications to 26(2) on changes to business plans (in response to a submission from a licensed agency to clarify the requirements)
- Slight clarifications to 38(1) and 38(2) on levy collection timing (in response to a submission from a licensed agency to reassure industry that frequent or

unpredicted changes to the timing of levies are not anticipated, and that the assessment of levies is communicated via invoicing)

- Update small scale producer definition for those in Northern BC to include an aggregate threshold of 100 tonnes of storage crops (in response to the District C Farmers Institute submission on behalf of a broad group of Northern stakeholders)
- Update 5(d) and 5(e) to waive fees for small scale producers (in response to the District C Farmers Institute submission on behalf of a broad group of Northern stakeholders)
- Update 37 (1), (2), (3), and (4) to waive levies for small scale producers (in response to the District C Farmers Institute submission on behalf of a broad group of Northern stakeholders)
- Update the conversion added to the General Orders from tons to metric tonnes to correct a mathematical error (in response to feedback at the Commission meeting where the proposed final text was reviewed)

The Appendix: *Additional General Order Amendments* sets out the exact textual amendments made to the General Order as a result of this final review process.

The Commission determined that the amendments adopted following the final round of feedback were reasonable, responsive, and primarily clarifying in nature. The revisions refined definitions, corrected technical errors, clarified administrative provisions, and adjusted the Small-Scale Producer framework — including increasing the northern storage crop exemption threshold from 25 tons to 100 tons (aggregate) and waiving licence fees and levies for Small-Scale Producers.

The Commission concluded that these amendments were consistent with the policy intent previously consulted upon and did not introduce new regulatory requirements, but rather enhanced clarity, proportionality, and administrative fairness. Accordingly, no further consultation was required, and the new General Order was promulgated effective February 11, 2026.

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The newly revised [General Order](#) is available on our website.

## Closing

The Commission thanks industry participants for their extensive engagement throughout this process. The objective remains a **clear, modern, and effective General Order** that supports orderly marketing, fair competition, and long-term industry stability.

Some policy areas generated significant discussion from industry, and it was determined that additional analysis was required before final decisions can be made. These matters will be the subject of more targeted consultation in early 2026 and include:

- **Organic production and marketing**
- **Food safety and biosecurity requirements**
- **Greenhouse producers selling to multiple agencies**
- **Requirements on net grower return (NGR) reporting**
- **Potential use of monetary penalties and enforcement tools**

Staff have begun to explore options and are gathering industry feedback on these policy areas to bring recommendations back to the Commission by **June 2026**.

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## APPENDIX: Additional General Order Amendments

The redlined items below are in order of their occurrence within the General Order and are shared here for your convenience so you can easily find what was changed based on the final round of Industry Feedback.

### Interpretation

1.

.....  
“**Good Standing**” means ~~current with all monetary obligations imposed by the Commission and compliant with all orders, rules and directions made by the Commission. and current with all monetary obligations imposed by the Commission.~~ The Commission may, in its discretion, deem a person to be in good standing notwithstanding non-compliance, where such non-compliance is inadvertent and insubstantial.

.....  
“**Processing**” includes freezing, canning, ~~packing, peeling, dicing, slicing, or mixing with other edible products, or in any way preserving or altering~~ a Greenhouse Crop, Processing Crop or Storage Crop, by mechanical means or otherwise.

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“**Small-Scale Producer**” means:

- (a) a person engaged in the production of Greenhouse Crops who holds less than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of Production Allocation;
- (b) a person engaged in the production of Storage Crops south of the 53rd parallel north, including Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, but excluding Haida Gwaii, who produces less than 1 ton (1.016 tonnes) of Storage Crops in a crop year;
- (c) a person engaged in the production of Storage Crops north of the 53rd parallel north, excluding Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, but including Haida Gwaii, who produces less than ~~25 tons (25.4 tonnes)~~ of

- . . . . .
- ~~potatoes or less than 10 tons (10.16 tonnes) of other~~ 100 tonnes (101.6 tonnes) of Storage Crops in a crop year;
- (d) a person who grows less than 30 tons (30.48 tonnes) of strawberries for Processing in a crop year.

**Licence Categories**

5. A person who is eligible to receive a licence must apply for the applicable licence category in the form prescribed by the Commission from time to time, and remit the applicable licence fee, for the applicable licence period. The Commission may thereupon issue annual licences as follows:
- (d) Greenhouse Crop Producer Licence, for each Producer engaged in the production of Greenhouse Crops:
- (i) licence period: October 1 to September 30;
  - (ii) non-refundable licence application fee: \$500.00 (~~not applicable to Small-Scale Producers~~);
  - (iii) annual licence fee (in addition to the non-refundable licence application fee): \$250.00 (~~not applicable to Small-Scale Producers~~);
- (e) Storage Crop Producer Licence, for each Producer engaged in the production of Storage Crops:
- (i) license period: March 1 to last day of February;
  - (ii) non-refundable licence application fee: \$500.00 (~~not applicable to Small-Scale Producers~~);
  - (iii) annual licence fee (in addition to the non-refundable licence application fee): \$250.00 (~~not applicable to Small-Scale Producers~~);

- . . . . .
7. (1) Licences are not transferable.
- (2) Where a Licence has been issued by the Commission to persons who carry on business in partnership, whether in the names of each of the partners and/or in the business name carried on by those partners, such licence ~~will be cancelled is~~ **subject to presumptive cancellation** without further order upon a direct or indirect **cumulative** change in the legal or beneficial majority interest in the partnership, relative to the majority interest in the partnership at the time the Licence was first issued. Any other change in the legal or beneficial interest in the partnership requires prior approval from the Commission.
- (3) Where a Licence has been issued by the Commission to a corporation, ~~the such~~ licence ~~will be cancelled is~~ **subject to presumptive cancellation** without further order upon a direct or indirect **cumulative** change in the legal or beneficial ownership of the majority voting shares of the corporation, relative to the majority voting shares of the corporation at the time the Licence was first issued. Any other change in the legal or beneficial ownership of the shares of the corporation requires prior approval from the Commission.

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26. (2) Agencies must market Greenhouse Crops, Processing Crops and Storage Crops only in accordance with a detailed marketing plan approved in writing by the Commission. The detailed marketing plan must be submitted by the Agency to the Commission annually on or before November 15 of each year, and must include ~~full~~ **material** particulars of the Agency's Delivery Allocation and/or Production Allocation policies, planned acreage, and anticipated tonnage. No **material** change may be made to an Agency's approved marketing plan without the Commission's prior approval.

**Producer and Producer-Shipper Levies**

- 37. (1) ~~Subject to subsection (4),~~ Levies are fixed and imposed on each Greenhouse Crop Producer ~~(other than a Small-Scale Producer)~~ and Greenhouse Crop Producer-Shipper as set out in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether any such Producer or Producer-Shipper is the holder of a Valid Licence.
- (2) ~~Subject to subsection (4),~~ Levies are fixed and imposed on each Storage Crop Producer ~~(other than a Small-Scale Producer)~~ and Storage Crop Producer-Shipper as set out in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether any such Producer is the holder of a Valid Licence.
- (3) ~~Subject to subsection (4),~~ Levies are fixed and imposed on each Processing Crop Producer as set out in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether any such Producer is the holder of a Valid Licence.
- (4) Levies are not payable with respect to regulated product duly marketed in accordance with subsection 16(2).

.....

- 38. (1) Every Processor and Agency shall deduct all levies due from a Producer against the amounts due to the Producer, and shall remit such levies to the Commission ~~at such time or times, and in such manner, as the Commission may direct as invoiced by the Commission.~~
- (2) Levies not otherwise deducted and remitted by Processors or Agencies in accordance with subsection (1) are due directly from Producers ~~at such time or times, and in such manner, as the Commission may direct as invoiced by the Commission.~~

