

कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

Ref. No: ORG-2022-23-000012

Dated: 02nd June 2022

Circular on Fees for issuance of Transaction Certificates under NPOP

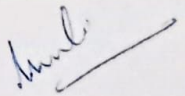
It has been brought to the notice to APEDA that Certification Bodies are charging additional cost from operators for issuance of Transaction Certificate.

The Certification Bodies have added several components in their tariff structure which are misleading to the operators. It has also been noted that the components of fee are arbitrary and are interpreted in different ways as per the circumstances which are hidden charges. It has been alleged that few Certification Bodies are charging for issuance of Transaction Certificates based on the value of consignment. The charges imposed on the operators have been on % basis of the consignment value which confirms the business interest of Certification Bodies rather than offering the certification services. Hence the operators are being overcharged in addition to the inspection and certification charges in gross violation of spirit of organic products export.

As Certification Bodies act as third party to carry out inspection and certification only and shall not be involved in marketing activities or to serve their own commercial interest, this has been a serious violation against standards requirements. In addition, imposing financial burden on the operators is treated as major offense in the certification programme as it leads to biased decisions. Hence, all the Certification Bodies accredited under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) are hereby warned to withdraw such charges if imposed on the operators with immediate effect, failing which APEDA shall be constrained to take legal action against erring Certification Bodies without further notice. This Circular applies for issuance of both domestic and export Transaction Certificates.

Certification Bodies are cautioned to be professional in their approach towards levying charges for inspection and certification and shall ensure that the charges are commensurate to their services especially not arbitrary.

Further, all Certification Bodies are required to submit present fee structure as per enclosed format within 7 days of the issuance of Circular to APEDA i.e by 10th June, 2022.


U.K Vats
General Manager